

THE TIMES 35p

No. 65,998

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18 1997

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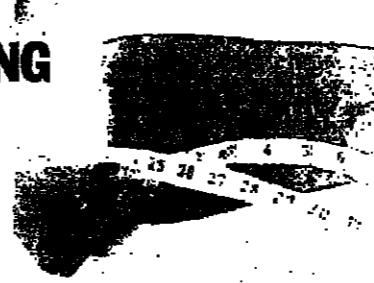
BEST FOR BOOKS

Why Martin Amis
lacks heart, by
Russell Celyn Jones
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THE PERIL OF SLIMMING PILLS

Dr Thomas
Stuttaford
PAGE 20



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Alarm over fall in convictions

Rape victims may get new deal in court

BY STEWART TENDLER AND RICHARD FORD

RAPE victims may be allowed to give evidence from behind screens and be spared prurient cross-examination as part of a drive to bring more sex attackers to justice.

Police, MPs and women's groups are all pressing the Home Secretary to act after figures released yesterday showed that far more women are being raped, but far fewer men are being tried or convicted.

The number of rapes reported to police has trebled over the past 12 years to just under 6,000 in 1996 — and some officers say that is a massive underestimate, with only one in ten victims thought to come forward. But the number of prosecutions and convictions has fallen, so that only 19 per cent of complaints lead to a court case — and only half of those end with a conviction.

More than one hundred MPs, many of them Labour backbenchers, have now signed a Commons motion calling for sweeping changes to court procedures and Jack Straw has promised to consider reforms.

He said yesterday that he was extremely concerned by the figures, which indicated that the sea-change in the way police investigated rape complaints had not been fully reflected by the courts or the legal profession.

"There is a great deal to do to make the system better and more sensitive to the needs of the victim. More needs to be done to protect witnesses in court. We have to get away

from the hostile environment. Victims have already suffered one trial with the rape itself."

Mr Straw said that screening victims from their alleged attackers was one possibility. Another was to curtail the often lengthy cross-examination of victims about their previous sexual history: the Home Secretary wants to ensure that such questioning is allowed only if it strictly relevant.

Two studies are already underway in an attempt to tackle the problem. The Home office is following more than 500 cases from the first complaint to the court case in an effort to raise the standard of evidence against suspects and improve the environment for victims and other vulnerable witnesses.

At the same time, the police, the Crown Prosecution Service and the judiciary are examining how the present system operates and how various departments co-operate.

Nigel Pascoe, QC, chairman of the Bar's public affairs committee, said he backed an overhaul of the rape laws — including screens to surround victims or allowing them to give evidence by video link — so long as they still allowed vigorous cross-examination. "Times have changed. Today we extend much greater protection to victims of sexual assault," he said.

But any such changes are likely to prove controversial with civil liberties groups, which argue that allowing screens around a victim giving

evidence is a further erosion of a fundamental part of the legal process.

John Wadham, director of Liberty, the civil rights pressure group, said: "The difficulty with this is where are we going to draw the line. There may be a number of steps that need to be taken to protect vulnerable witnesses, but there is a fundamental right of trial in the open where the defendant can confront his or her accuser. That should not be given away lightly."

The case for reform was presented vividly yesterday by a victim who waived her anonymity to address the Police Superintendents' Association conference in Bristol.

Sunita Vig, who was left pregnant after being attacked by a family friend, asked why the courts "cannot be civilised to someone who has been through the most terrible experience of their lives. I felt I was on trial."

After she spoke, the association overwhelmingly backed a motion calling for radical reform to help rape victims in court, and to stop serial date-rape walking free. One detective told the conference that Scotland Yard knew of up to ten such men preying on women in London. Detective Superintendent Bill Graham said that they befriended women in bars and clubs with a premeditated view to rape confident that they would never be convicted. "I know of a handful of these date-rape who offend over and over again."



Shirley Wigginton: forced to booby-trap her home against former boyfriend

Clinton rejects landmine treaty

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

WASHINGTON yesterday refused to sign a treaty banning landmines. A draft version had been approved in Oslo earlier in the day.

Defending the decision, President Clinton said America could not sign an agreement that failed to accept the special responsibilities of the world's only superpower. "Unfortunately, as it is drafted, I cannot in good conscience add America's name," he said.

The sticking point for Washington is Korea. With only 37,000 Americans supporting South Korean troops against

Job figures raise interest rate fear

Financial markets are braced for further interest rate rises after statistics showed unemployment at a 17-year low and the high street spending boom continuing.

Unemployment fell to 1,496,500 — 5.3 per cent of the workforce — in August, the lowest since 1980. Retail sales rose 0.4 per cent, the same rate as in July, although the annual rate slipped from 6.7 per cent to a still robust 5.6 per cent. — Pages 23, 27

Unionists revive peace process

Ulster Unionists revived the peace process by returning to Stormont for the first time since Sinn Fein was admitted to the talks.

Declaring that republican terrorists would not drive his Ulster Unionist Party from the process, David Trimble broke one of unionism's taboos by marching his delegation into the same building as Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness. — Page 2

Global ban, page 16

Rejected lover in military stake-out

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

A FORMER Army engineer waged a stalking campaign against his former girlfriend, using his military skills to bug her telephone and stake out her home.

Peter Payne, 43, eavesdropped on Shirley Wigginton with microphones in her bedroom and kitchen and logged all her movements in a diary.

He always vanished before police arrived by monitoring her 999 calls with a hand-held receiver while sitting in his car outside her house in Hucknall, Nottinghamshire.

Mrs Wigginton, 42, was forced to booby-trap and barricade herself in her own home during the four-month ordeal, and is still undergoing counselling more than a year later.

The court heard the couple came together after her husband died, and they

bought a house together. However, the relationship soured because of Payne's violent temper and by February 1996 she had obtained two injunctions and a county court order to remove him. He finally left but began to stake out the house, threatening her children and running through the back garden wearing a balaclava mask.

Last night Mrs Wigginton, who has only recently stopped taking tranquilisers, told how she was so scared that she asked a close friend to move in with her.

They turned the home into a virtual fortress, barricading themselves in at night with saucepans balanced on top of the ironing board against the back door.

A charge of burglary at Mrs Wigginton's home was ordered to lie on the file.

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Paxman denounces 'sausage machine' BBC news

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
AND CAROL MIDGLEY

LEADING BBC presenters yesterday added their weight to editors, producers and journalists in opposing plans to abolish individual editorships for news programmes. Jeremy Paxman, the *Newsnight* presenter (now on leave to write a book), said yesterday that the plan to create centralised news teams would turn the BBC News operation into a "sausage machine".

All producers and presenters of Radio 4's flagship *Today* programme, including Anna Ford, John Humphrys, James

Naughtie, Sue MacGregor and Nick Clarke, presenter of *The World at One*, plus Robin Lustig and James Cox have signed a letter describing the changes as "unacceptable".

The letter will go to Richard Clemmow, head of BBC news programmes who announced the changes to staff on Tuesday — changes that will see four executive editors take over responsibility for blocks of news programming. Associate editors will have responsibilities for a number of individual programmes and a fifth executive editor will have responsibility for commissioning features across the entire

radio and television news output. The feature commissioner's budget will come from the individual programmes.

Austin Mitchell, the Labour MP and broadcaster said last night the changes were "a dog's dinner" and "further British insanity". He was referring to John Birt the BBC Director-General.

"This is putting all news into the British Kenwood mixer. The *Nine O'Clock News* will simply be a rehashed version of the 24-hour television news rather than the other way around."

Mr Mitchell said last night he plans to raise the issue in

Continued on page 2, col 6



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'Greedy' Sugar forced me out, says Venables

By MICHAEL HORNELL

TERRY VENABLES, the former England football coach, told a jury yesterday that he was driven out of Tottenham Hotspur by the lies and greed of his partner, Alan Sugar, chairman of the North London club.

Mr Venables said that he then lost his England job because events had made the international committee nervous of retaining him.

After the 1991 takeover by the two men of the club, which had debts of £16 million, profits of £3 million and £5 million were made in the next two years.

After that Mr Sugar, the Amstrad tycoon, decided he wanted it all to himself, Mr Venables said. Describing the collapse of their relationship which led to his departure in 1993, Mr Venables told Knightsbridge Crown Court: "He just got big eyes, got greedy and wanted the lot."

Mr Venables, who became chief executive of Spurs after the takeover, was giving evidence on behalf of his business associate, Edward Ashby, who is accused of serving the club as a £17,000-a-year general manager while an undischarged bankrupt.

In an action brought by the Department of Trade and Industry, Mr Ashby, 53, denies four counts of being involved in managing the club, two of its subsidiary companies and the London nightclub Scribes West, owned by Mr Venables.

The prosecution maintains that he hired and fired staff and was involved in management decisions, but Mr Ashby claims that he was merely Mr Venables's "glorified secretary".

Mr Venables said that Mr Ashby was only ever an assistant and that he did not know that Spurs notebook bore the title "general manager" in letters written by Mr Ashby. "I ran the show myself," he said.

Mr Venables also denied knowing that Mr Ashby was responsible for preparing a business plan for the club in 1991 presented to the board after the takeover. The case continues today.



Midge Mather outside yesterday's hearing. She told the police: "I want to go to court. I wasn't flogging my guts out for two hours and a half hours for nothing"

The ringing confession

Angry villager, 64, sabotaged church bells then telephoned police

and councillors to say that she did it. Simon de Bruxelles reports

THERE was no doubt about the culprit when someone broke down the heavy oak door of a 12th-century village church and cut the bell ropes with a hacksaw. Midge Mather, 65, personally telephoned every member of the parochial church council to tell them what she had done, and then called the police.

Tired of the noise from the bells of St Swithun's in Compton Bassett, Wiltshire, she wanted everyone to know of her protest, and even offered to leave a light switched on outside her cottage so that police could find their way to arrest her. She was disappointed when officers said that initially they would just make a report.

"But look, I want to go to court," she told them. "Come off it. I wasn't flogging my guts out for two hours and a half hours for nothing."

A tape recording of the telephone call was played yesterday as Mrs Mather had

her wish, appearing before Chippenham magistrates accused of causing criminal damage worth £1,852.25 to the 500-year-old door and six bell ropes. She is defending herself, claiming that she acted under duress and had no choice because the noise was placing the life of her brother, John, in danger.

She had broken down the door with a crowbar, clambered on a box balanced on a chair and cut the bell ropes with a hacksaw. In her phone call, she said: "Is that the police? My name is Mrs Mather and I think you ought to come out and arrest me. I have just cut the bells at my church and smashed the door down. I will put the outside light on so you can find me.

She had broken down the door with a crowbar, clambered on a box balanced on a chair and cut the bell ropes with a hacksaw. In her phone call, she said: "Is that the police? My name is Mrs Mather and I think you ought to come out and arrest me. I have just cut the bells at my church and smashed the door down. I will put the outside light on so you can find me.

I've asked for meetings and meetings and I've got nothing.

"The only thing I could was take it into my hands. My brother is ill from those bells. My brother could have done it himself but of course it would have killed him. He was blown up on D-Day, he was a commando.

"I had to clamber over the door. One time I got stuck because I'm a bit fat, but I managed it in the end. I've been up and cut six ropes. I've had to stand on a box at 64, years of age, wobbling like hell, but I managed it."

Mrs Mather arrived at court wearing a black pillbox and veil, and carrying a 5ft tubular building prop wrapped in a red gingham tea towel. The pole was identical

to one used to block the door to the bellflower after Mrs Mather had threatened to sabotage a visit by a group of campanologists from Oxfordshire.

Guy Knell, for the prosecution, said that until Mrs Mather began complaining several years ago, groups from all over the country would come to ring them. The number of visits was cut and efforts were made to warn her in advance of bellringing sessions.

He said: "The church authorities have done their best to try to accommodate Mrs Mather over the bellringing. They are people normally used to dealing in terms of peace and understanding. There have been times when Mrs Mather's rather confrontational approach has left them rather nonplussed."

Mrs Mather said that she had never been invited to discuss the problem with the church council despite numerous complaints, and had not been informed the ringing was being cut back. But John Reis, secretary of the church council, said the reason no one had told her was because "unfortunately your calls were long and ranting and it was impossible for the recipient to get a word in edgeways".

Dr David Bishop, captain of the bells, said he arranged for the steel bar to be placed behind the belfry door after she had made threats in the local newspaper. The ropes were tied out of reach and the safety rope to the stairs was

removed. Mrs Mather asked him whether it had been his intention that "I should fall and break my neck". Dr Bishop, a GP, replied: "The intention was to stop you going up in the first place."

The hearing threatened to descend into farce when George Calvert, an elderly war veteran and former judge's clerk helping Mrs Mather with her case, muttered to a witness: "You are arrogant, sir."

After being admonished by the magistrate, he said: "I won't be intimidated by anyone" and resigned as legal adviser, to be replaced by Mrs Mather's daughter, Rebekah Sloane-Mather. Mr Calvert was later taken into custody after shouting at the magistrate, who had told Mrs Mather to sit down when she complained that she was not being allowed to summon several witnesses, including the Bishop of Salisbury.

The case continues today.

JP who exposed bottom loses her seat

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A MAGISTRATE who was photographed exposing her bottom has been told by the Lord Chancellor that she may no longer sit on the bench. Josie Lewis has been told that her "mooning" failed to uphold "the dignity, standing and good reputation" of the magistracy.

Her dismissal from the Swindon Bench comes after an incident in April when she bared her bottom to Brian Woodfield, a stable owner. Miss Lewis, 45, had been collecting some property from the stables at Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, when she became involved in an argument with Mr Woodfield and dropped her breeches at him as she left.

He already had his camera out to take pictures of the tackle she was removing as she had not signed an inventory, and got a photograph of her bottom. She has now been sent a letter by Lord Irving of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, telling her that she can no longer sit as a Justice of the Peace.

Miss Lewis, a freelance publicist and journalist, said: "My future work commitments would not have left me available to sit anyway. There are other ways I can help in the community. I have never met anybody who has ever condemned me for it. They have all treated it as quite light-hearted. I do not see any reason why I should have resigned. If the Lord Chancellor has made this decision, then there's nothing I can do."

Mr Woodfield said: "I think it's for the best. She should have resigned long ago. It's not fitting for someone who can send people to jail to act in such a manner. I'm sure if she had sat on a case where someone had moaned she would have taken a very dim view."

Honeymoon couple survive balloon crash in Mexico

By PHILIP DELVES
BROUGHTON

A BRITISH couple on honeymoon in Mexico survived after they fell 2,500ft when a hot air balloon they were travelling in ripped open and caught fire.

David and Vicky Martin looked up just minutes after lifting off from the resort of Puerto Vallarta to see the balloon, tearing open above them and then bursting into flames. The six passengers and pilot dropped to the ground at a speed of more than 40mph.

"Everybody was laughing and joking as we got up in the air, saying 'We must be mad doing this,'" Mr Martin, 30, from Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, said. "Then I looked up and saw the balloon had ripped all the way around about halfway up and I could see the sky through the hole. "The pilot had told us because the balloon was patchwork it was not supposed to rip. I just thought 'Oh my God we are going to die, this can't be happening.'"

The balloon caught fire and the passengers, all honeymoon couples, were told to crouch down to avoid being burnt. Mr Martin said: "It was the hardest thing in the world not being able to hold my wife's hand while all this was happening. Every time I close my eyes now I see the ground coming up towards



David and Vicky Martin on their wedding day

me. Vicky said to me: 'We're going to die, aren't we?'

As they hit the ground he and the other passengers crawled clear of the wreckage and he heard his wife crying out that she could not move her legs. He said: "She thought she had broken her back and asked me if I would still love her if she was in a wheelchair for the rest of her life."

The pilot then shouted to Mr Martin to pull his wife clear as the balloon's fuel tanks could explode at any

minute. "We pulled her out between us. She was in so much pain that she was screaming."

Mrs Martin, 29, had a four-hour operation for a badly disjointed spine while Mr Martin, 30, escaped with just a swollen ankle. Poor standards of nursing in the Mexican hospital to which they were transported meant a further 12 days were added to their stay. Mr Martin had to feed and wash his wife himself. The other passengers and the pilot were unhurt. Mrs Martin's

surgeons told her that her survival was amazing.

The accident took place ten days into the couple's two-week stay when they decided to take an excursion organised with two other honeymooning couples.

Since returning to England, the couple have been treated at the King's Mill Hospital in Sutton in Ashfield where they both work. Mr Martin as an accountant and Mrs Martin as a clerical assistant.

Mr Martin said: "We have

hardly had a chance to think about the wedding. It seems like a lifetime ago. We feel lucky to be alive. Vicky is still upset about the whole thing, but I have told her that at least one thing has come out of all this: there is now a bond between us that no one can break."

Mexican authorities are investigating the accident. The balloon in which the Martins were flying was only a few weeks old and had been given a safety check. The pilot had been flying balloons for 18 years.

David and Vicky Martin booked their holiday to Puerto Vallarta through the First Choice travel firm. They were fully insured through their own company.

Balloon trips at Puerto Vallarta have been temporarily suspended by First Choice until they find what caused the Martins' balloon to break up.

Left-handers from outer space

THERE may be a good reason why left-handed people were once treated with suspicion. Their peculiarity could be a betrayal of extraterrestrial origins, according to research published today.

Scientists know that amino acids, the building blocks of life from which proteins are made, come in two molecular types, known as "left-handed" and "right-handed". For living things to function, they must be based on only one of these types: they cannot be mixed together. And on Earth, left-handed amino acids were selected.

Scientists have wondered whether

nature picked the left-handed form at random, or whether there is something about the universe that favoured this form. Now a new study of a meteorite that landed in Australia in 1969 suggests that the origins are extra-terrestrial.

Before there was life on Earth there were amino acids, and it is believed that many were carried here by comets and meteorites. So any evidence that the amino acids found in meteorites have a preponderance of the left-handed form would indicate that the bias was set long before life began to evolve, by some force acting early in the history of the uni-

When the task began

WALKING ON CLOUD

SEVEN YEARS IN THE

WORLD OF BUSINESS

BY MICHAEL HORNELL

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Opponents join forces against Welsh apathy

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT AND NICHOLAS WATT

JOHN PRESCOTT and William Hague both tried to invigorate the Welsh devolution campaign yesterday amid signs that apathy could be a factor in the outcome of today's referendum on the creation of a Welsh assembly.

The Deputy Prime Minister, campaigning for a "yes" vote, and the Conservative leader, calling for a "no", descended on the border town of Newport, in Monmouthshire, which has in the past shown little enthusiasm for devolution. The "yes" campaign was buoyant after a crowd cheered Mr Prescott as he told the Welsh people it was decision day and they should "go for it".

In Monmouth, Mr Hague called for a high turnout, saying: "If you still have doubts after the government hype and propaganda from their party machine, you should reject devolution." Brushing off ques-

ties as to whether his Welsh fiancée, Ffion Jenkins, shared his view, Mr Hague said: "I haven't discussed it with her. I am not entirely sure she is entitled to vote."

In North Wales, unlikely

"yes" campaigners have long feared the strength of the "no" vote in North Wales, and it was not by chance that the Prime Minister made his last campaign stop in Wrexham, near the border. "Yes" campaigners remember the 1979 referendum, when North Wales resoundingly rejected devolution.

Tony Blair's words about the economic benefits of an assembly cut little ice on the North Wales coast where business leaders look to Manchester and Liverpool, an hour's drive away, rather than to

Cardiff, four hours away. David Williams, a banker in Llandudno and chairman of the North Wales Business Club, said: "We feel an affinity with Manchester and Liverpool because of a geographical

and historical reality. That is where we look for investment and business. I fear that an assembly in Cardiff would be very biased to South Wales."

Down Llandudno's promenade, a strong "no" supporter,

Stephen Doubler, aged 13, and other supporters of a Welsh assembly await the arrival of John Prescott in Pontypridd market yesterday



better than nothing. Speaking at his Anglesey cottage, Thomas, 84, said: "We must grasp it even though they have thrown only a few crumbs at us."

Letters, page 23

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THE VOLUNTEER RESERVE FORCES. BRITAIN'S BEST KNOWN BUSINESS SECRET.

Issued by the National Employers' Liaison Committee on behalf of the Territorial Army and the Volunteer Reserves of the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines and the Royal Air Force.



Stress blamed for air errors

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

AIR traffic controllers claim that they are being subjected to intolerable stress as they try to handle an ever-increasing number of aircraft flying into and over the British Isles.

A recent spate of potentially disastrous near-misses have been blamed on controller error, which, many controllers believe, is the result of non-stop pressure at work.

"A few years ago there was a time in every day when the number of aircraft slowed down a bit," Michael Burlin, of the Guild of Air Traffic Controllers, said. "But today, from the moment the headsets go on, it is non-stop pressure. The peak time for traffic is literally all day."

Despite breaks every two hours, controllers say that they are constantly tired and stressed although shown to be skilled and competent when subjected to official tests. Plans to ease their workload by moving the main air traffic control centre from cramped underground facilities at West Drayton to a new air traffic

control centre at Fareham have been seriously delayed because of repeated problems with the software of the new computer equipment.

The Civil Aviation Authority said that it has set up a review of the new control centre but must ensure that existing services are maintained. A spokesman said: "We cannot undertake large-scale controller training in the busy summer months. This training will be stepped up as the traffic falls during the autumn."

Meanwhile the number of flights continues to grow. Controllers handled their millionth flight of the year on August 22 — earlier than ever before. The number of controllers has risen from 1,100 to 1,700 in the past five years to cope with extra demand.

Airlines are also aware of the increased problems on the ground and are racing to fit the latest anti-collision devices to their aircraft.

Editors promise to back privacy reform

By CAROL MIDDLETON AND RAYMOND SNOODY

NEWSPAPER editors promised yesterday to support rigorous privacy reforms and help to put an end to the "deplorable practices" by some members of the press after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

At a meeting of the Press Complaints Commission's code of practice committee yesterday, a message was read from the Princess's brother Earl Spencer calling for a privacy law and an end to the "torture" of privacy invasion.

Afterwards Sir David English, chairman of the committee, said he believed future breaches of privacy should be investigated whether there had been a complaint or not.

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the PCC, who is urging moves to protect the privacy of Prince William and Prince Harry into adulthood, described the meeting as "very constructive". His proposals, which he outlined to the committee yesterday, were drawn up after discussion

with every national newspaper editor.

He added: "The paparazzi are part of the problem, in the sense that it is the conductor of photographers generally we want to put right."

Lord Spencer's views are very well known to me. He is very concerned about these issues."

Charles Moore, Editor of The Daily Telegraph and a member of the committee, said Lord Spencer had contacted him on Tuesday and asked him to convey the message.

The text is private but in general it emphasises the enormous public support for his attack on tabloid intrusion.

It called upon us all to uphold the sanctity of privacy and in particular attacked the tabloids.

He said that to deprive someone of their privacy is a form of torture and the tabloids were the torturers. What he hoped for was that this form of journalism would



Sir David: he called for an end to intrusion

define the code of practice, which sets the benchmarks for the ethical and professional standards of journalism, we recognise this.

"We are now undertaking an urgent review of the code. As an industry we emphasise the need for the code to be followed not just in the letter but in its full spirit."

"We support Lord Wakeham's calls for wide-ranging and rigorous reforms and recognise that there is a shared determination to rid our publications of practices which we all deplore."

The committee, comprising six national newspaper editors, four from regional papers and one each from Scotland and periodicals.

Sources said the meeting had healed a rift between Sir David English, chairman of the committee, and Mr Moore, who had suggested that Sir David, who is also chairman of Associated Newspapers, was unfit for the post on the committee. They had argued publicly about coverage of the Princess's death and



Lord Wakeham meeting the press yesterday after the committee pledged to end "deplorable practices"

its aftermath. Sir David has told Lord Wakeham, the PCC chairman, that in future breaches of privacy should be investigated whether or not there has been a complaint.

Sir David believes that Professor Robert Pinner, the Privacy Commissioner should have the right to choose which

PCC code of practice in the case of Diana, Princess of Wales, because they knew she would never complain.

Sir David believes that Professor Robert Pinner, the Privacy Commissioner should have the right to choose which

cases to investigate. He said he was optimistic that, in future, there would be a new spirit and a new attitude in the press and that everybody now realises we have now got to get this done."

The committee's recommen-

dations are expected to be discussed at a full meeting of the Press Complaints Commission next Wednesday. An announcement of changes to the existing code of conduct is expected within a day or two of that meeting.

Football strip blunder gave fans the blues

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

REPLICA football kits are not cheap and those who wear them — young, obsessive small boys or slightly mad older ones — have an extraordinary attention to detail. So when Everton fans discovered that their shirts were not exact replicas of those worn by the players, they cried foul. It transpired, however, that it was the players who were sporting the wrong design.

The outcry began when it appeared, to those who can spot such things, that the stripes on the replica shirts were not the same way up as those on the players' shirts. Calls were made to the club and the manufacturer, Umbro, to complain.

There were fears that a mistake had been made in the production of the shirts, which cost about £50. The fact that a late deal with a sponsor just before the season began had delayed the arrival of the strips in the shops made it seem all the more likely that there had been a blunder.

There had, but not with the replica shirts. Someone, somewhere had unwittingly sewn in the white and yellow

stripes upside down on the players' kit.

Umbro then faced a race against time to dress the players in the correct shirts for the rest of the season. The club said that the team would be properly attired for their clash with Barnsley on Saturday.

Among those who spotted the mistake was Robert Armstrong, 13. "He was drawing a picture of the kit when he noticed the stripe was a different way up on his," his mother, Bernadette Armstrong, said. "When you pay that amount, you expect an exact replica of what the players are wearing."

A spokesman for Umbro said: "We don't know how this happened but new shirts are being sent to the club."

Everton insisted that staff in the club's commercial department had spotted the difference even before the fans did, when the replica stocks arrived in the club's shop a week before they went on sale. A spokesman said: "Those sold to fans are the correct version. The most important thing is that Everton will be playing in the right shirts on Saturday."

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An ideal dome show for 'best of British'

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

FIFTY arbiters of style and form are to decide which are the most brilliant new British innovations to be trumpeted around the world to mark the millennium. The greatest designs from the closing years of the century are to be selected from a wealth of nominations to promote Britain at home and abroad.

Tony Blair said yesterday that the initiative would prove Britain was in the forefront of a "creative revolution". Those chosen will then be promoted abroad by the British Council, and showcased on regional tours as well as at the Millennium Dome in Greenwich.

The 50 panelists from a range of fields will name Millennium Products from the thousands of inventions and services expected to be nominated to the Design Council by the companies who created them. The first successful innovations will be announced next spring and thereafter batches will be chosen every six months.

"It is time to show the world that we are not only a country with a glorious past, we are a country with a powerful future," said the Prime Minister. "Britain has an unrivalled track record of innovation and creativity.

"We were once the workshop of the world, leading the industrial revolution.

THE PANEL

water in Third World countries, and a new cashpoint that identifies a customer by scanning his or her iris.

Millennium Products must be products or services launched on the market since January 1995 and created in Britain. John Sorrell, chairman of the Design Council, said: "But most important, it must make a difference. It must do things in a way not done before, to affect how we consume, live, work or learn. Those are the things our panel will be looking for."

Mr Sorrell said that the Millennium Products would lead to greater understanding, both at home and abroad, of what Britain could achieve. "This millennium initiative will create a legacy for the future in the form of a unique body of knowledge made up of the stories behind hundreds of new and exciting products and services - a legacy of experiences and insights which we will gather and then pass on to children in schools."

The thousands of nominations expected by the Design Council will be sifted by staff to weed out those that do not meet the basic criteria, and will then be examined by the panel working in teams of 11. Initially each panel member will be required to put in one full day of unpaid work. It is expected that 2,000 products or services will be selected over the next two years.

Today we are leading the world in another economic revolution - a creative revolution."

Mr Blair was shown a number of products that might qualify as Millennium Products. These included an easily cleanable bucket with a lid, designed for transporting



Tony Blair at yesterday's launch. Britain leads the creative revolution, he said

WHAT THE DESIGNERS SAY



Designer and panelist: Dyson with cleaner

SIR Terence Conran - founder of Habitat, and now owner of the Conran Shops and a string of restaurants, singled out the bagless vacuum cleaner, invented by James Dyson, as the most extraordinary design of recent years. "It seems to me that innovation, design manufacture and marketing have combined to create something that is quite remarkable. There are not many people who have done that in this country and I think it's an example to young designers to get up and do something. I also think that David Mellor, the cutter not the former Tory MP, quietly

produces beautifully designed cutlery at his factory in Sheffield." Mr Dyson, a designer and a panel member, cited Psion personal organisers, Paul Smith shirts and the latest JCBs as inspirational modern designs. "I have always loved JCB designs. They are wonderful products. They have a very strong design team who keep coming up with new products which keep them ahead of very strong competition from America, Germany and Japan. They are a big heroic company of mine. I am also a great admirer of Paul Smith because he has a very big

turnover, makes a lot of his shirts in England and designs them in England and then sells them in vast quantities around the world."

Sir Clive Sinclair, inventor of the Sinclair C5, is hoping to market an ultra-lightweight pedal cycle which can be folded up and carried anywhere, but it might possibly fail to qualify as a Millennium Product because it may not be ready by the end of the century. "I would nominate the Lotus Elise sports car, which is half the weight of its competitors because of a clever and radical design."

■ Public reaction to the widely publicised Royal Academy show yesterday was, like the exhibits themselves, a mixed bag. Dalya Alberge reports

MEMBERS of the public, rather than art critics, were yesterday allowed into the Royal Academy of Arts to give their opinion of an exhibition that includes dismembered limbs and rotting animal carcasses. While some voiced outrage and disgust, others said they were not as shocked as they had expected to be.

Sensation, a loan show from Charles Saatchi, features works as the Chapman brothers' sculpture of mutant mannequins with genitalia for facial features and a Damien Hirst piece involving thousands of flies feeding off a rotting cow's head.

Galia Gafson, a travel agent, said: "There is a lot of rubbish here. It's not something you'd bring children to. It's made to shock. It's disgusting, especially as the Royal Academy is such a prestigious house." Commenting on the Chapman brothers' work she said: "It's pornography. For that, I don't need to go to the RA. Rembrandt and Degas must turn in their graves."

Her friend, Avril Doctor, a sculptor, was repulsed by Hirst's piece. "I feel physically sick." However, she also felt there was some humour there. "No," Ms Gafson interrupted. "flies eating from a cow's head? Not in the Royal Academy."

Edna Dickinson, from London, said of the Chapman brothers' dismembered limbs hanging from a tree: "It's not art."

Several visitors expressed concern about the smell of rotting animal carcasses. Yvonne Vander Heul, an artist, pointed it out to a guard, who insisted there was no problem. Her friend, Clive Hirschhorn, said that putting such art in the RA gave it a respect that it did not deserve. Looking

at the Chapman sculpture, he said: "I can't imagine what living with that does to the brain. It has no aesthetic merit. Goya was making a very real statement about war. That's just pure mutilation."

Edward Marshall, a retired film production designer, said: "There are a lot of things here which are unpleasant." David Armstrong, a former university administrator, said: "It's pathetic, second-rate artists trying to shock. It's mediocre and boring. Art students have not known what to do for the last 30 years."

Those who applauded the show included Maggie Winkworth, a counselling

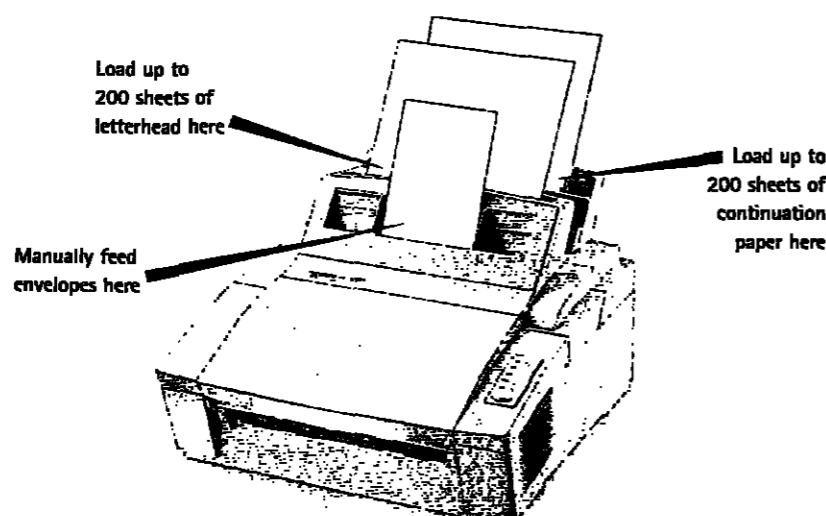
Leading article 23

psychologist. Looking at Hirst's sliced pig in formaldehyde, she said: "I feel overpowered by it. It invites me to really question my reactions to it." She criticised the decision to exhibit Marcus Harvey's portrait of Myra Hindley, made from children's palmprints, and which had distressed the families of Hindley's victims. "It has nothing to do with art. It's about compassion for them. It's amoral and totally insensitive to show it because of the family."

Pusia Fleming, an art student, said of the show: "It's fun. It's shocking in a fun way." Peter Rose, a retired art lecturer, said: "Most things I don't like but it's stimulating and challenging." Karsten Schubert, a dealer in contemporary art, said: "It's a good show. If you don't like it, go somewhere else."

The show opened yesterday to Friends of the Royal Academy. It opens to the general public today.

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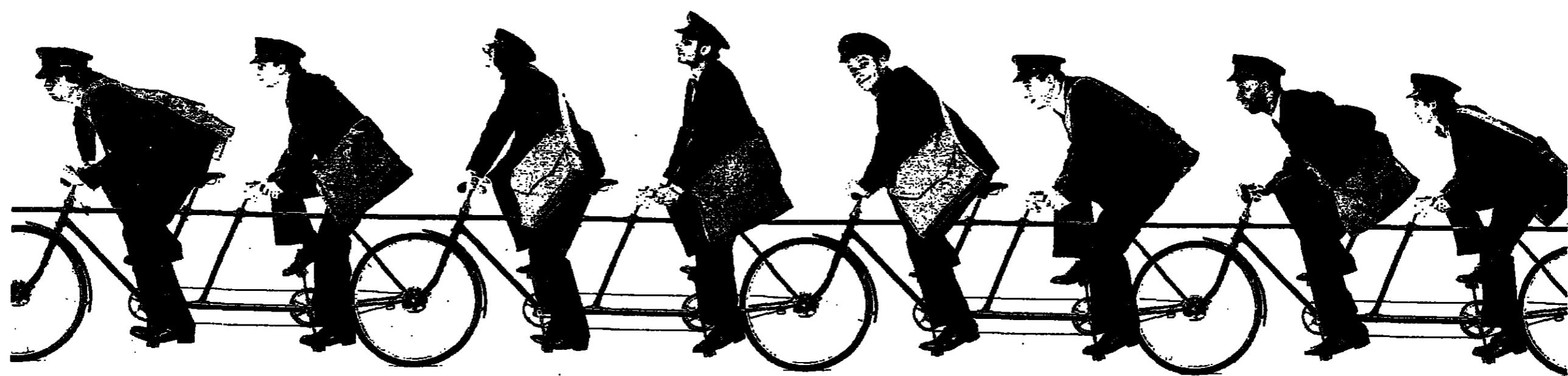
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Briton leads attempt to revive woolly mammoth

A BRITISH scientist is to search for the remains of woolly mammoths beneath the Siberian permafrost in the hope of obtaining genetic material to recreate the extinct species.

David Smale, a British geophysicist, will lead an Anglo-Japanese expedition which will use ground-penetrating radar of the kind used by police looking for murder victims as they hunt for mammoths preserved for 40,000 years in the permafrost.

Kazugumi Goto, a veterinary scientist from Kagoshima University in Japan who commissioned the expedition, believes that modern genetic technology might be able to reproduce a woolly mammoth in a similar way to how dinosaurs were recreated in the film *Jurassic Park*.

Dr Goto has found that injecting DNA from the sperm of dead bulls into cows' eggs can produce viable embryos. He wants to employ the same technique to inject DNA from preserved mammoth sperm into the eggs of African elephants. Over successive gen-

erations, he argues, "purer" mammoths could be bred by fertilising hybrid eggs with more mammoth sperm. The method would effectively breed out the elephant's genetic material.

News of the mammoth hunt was reported in *New Scientist*. Mr Smale, from London consulting engineers Mott MacDonald, recently returned from a preliminary trip to Siberia which was thwarted by Russian customs officials who impounded his equipment.

He hopes to return to the northeastern Siberian republic of Sakha next summer to search for mammoths in permafrost cliffs overlooking the Kolyma river. The region has yielded a number of mam-

moths finds where erosion has exposed their preserved remains.

Mr Smale said yesterday: "Mammoths turn up there with reasonable regularity. In the banks of the rivers in this area you have Pleistocene ice and permafrost dating back more than 30,000 years.

"We'll be looking between five and 20 metres under the surface, which should be well within range. Permafrost is good for radar."

Adrian Lister, a mammoth expert from University College London, said: "Everything we know about the preservation of DNA in frozen tissue suggests that it is smashed up into fragments." Of six woolly mammoths found frozen, only one found in 1903 had intact

genitals.

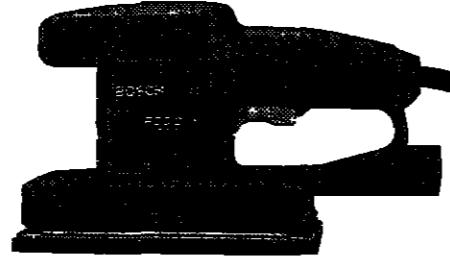
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Sperm taken from preserved mammoths will be injected into elephant eggs

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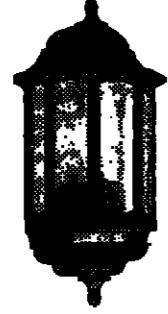
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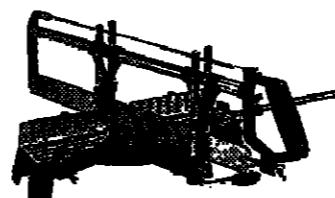
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Only the
fittest to
survive
odyssey
to Mars

By NICK NUTTALL

ASTRONAUTS on a voyage to Mars face even deadlier perils than the explorers on Earth who braved snake bites, scurvy, head-hunters, shipwrecks and other hazards to discover new trading routes and lands.

Researchers assessing the hazards on a trip to the Red Planet have concluded that only the right kind of people would be fitted to survive the journey and the climate of Mars on arrival.

Dangers include killer cosmic rays, cancer, muscle wastage and bone loss from zero gravity, equipment failure, and the very real risk of going mad.

Scientists are busy trying to find ways to minimise the hazards as much as possible. But there is no doubt that a Mars odyssey will be one of the most dangerous feats of human endeavour ever attempted.

The dangers are outlined in the magazine *New Scientist*. The Mars mission is expected to take more than two years — six months to get there, another six to return and 18 months on the planet waiting for the next "launch window".

Cosmic rays will be a major hazard on a long flight so far from Earth. Beyond the Earth's protective atmosphere and magnetic field, atomic nuclei are shooting around like highly charged bullets.

When they strike flesh "they blow biological molecules to bits", said *New Scientist*. They also generate electrons and gamma rays when they hit anything solid.

Solar flares, thrown out by the Sun about once a year, produce huge doses of high energy protons "that would kill unprotected astronauts within hours".

To meet this danger the Mars spaceship would need a protected "storm shelter" where the crew could retreat should a flare occur.

On Mars there would be little protection from cosmic radiation afforded by the planet's thin atmosphere and weak magnetic field. The astronauts would simply have to accept the risk of cancer caused by the total doses of radiation they would be exposed to.

"Just as explorers on Earth used to take for granted the risks of snake bite, scurvy, and shipwrecks, interplanetary explorers may have to accept a higher cancer risk as part of the deal," said *New Scientist*.

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Adi Roche, Dana and Mary Banotti, whose beliefs span the spectrum of Irish life. Ms Roche is favourite to win

Women-only battle for Irish presidency

The defeat of Albert Reynolds means that Ireland's next President will be female. But the candidates' views differ widely, says Audrey Magee

THE fight to become the next Irish President turned into a women-only battle yesterday after Albert Reynolds, the former Prime Minister, was rejected by his party in favour of a Belfast academic.

Mary McAleese, the Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University, was the unexpected winner over Mr Reynolds in a secret ballot in Dublin yesterday for the Fianna Fail candidacy. She now takes on three other women, including Dana, the 1970 Eurovision winner, in the battle to succeed Mary Robinson, who resigned last week to become the UN Human Rights Commissioner.

The women span the political spectrum. Dana is a fundamentalist Roman Catholic staunchly opposed to abortion; Adi Roche is a politically correct anti-nuclear campaigner, whose fashionable friends include Bono, singer with the rock band U2. In between are Professor McAleese, who shares some of Dana's religious and anti-abortion sentiments, and Mary Banotti, an MEP with liberal values.

Originally from West Belfast, Professor McAleese, 46, has been secretly lobbying

Fianna Fail for some months, but only formally announced her interest two weeks ago when John Hume, the SDLP leader, declined to stand. She had initially been dismissed by the party but gathered backing as the "Anyone but Albert" campaign gained pace. Fianna Fail members were increasingly worried that Mr Reynolds's campaign would be shrouded in allegations of sleaze and that, should Mr Reynolds win, the minority Government would lose a by-election.

Professor McAleese, who is married with three children, said she was "honoured and proud" to stand for Fianna Fail. Ten years ago, she stood unsuccessfully for the party in an election in Dublin. She left politics and concentrated on her academic career, becoming the first Catholic to gain a senior position in Queen's and

becoming the university's first woman pro-vice-chancellor.

She studied and lived in Dublin in the 1980s when she lectured at Trinity College and succeeded Mrs Robinson as the university's Reid Professor of Criminal Law, Criminology and Penology.

She is known for her

stauch Catholicism, supporting the Church's stance on abortion and divorce. But she clashed with the bishops in 1994 when revelations of widespread paedophilia in the Church came to light.

Her victory surprised many in Fianna Fail. It is the first time that a former party leader has been rejected as a presidential candidate by the party.

Mr Reynolds said that he was "very disappointed" at his defeat but ruled out standing as an independent. The party has a democratic right to

make its choice, and I will live with that," he said.

The professor's toughest opponent is Ms Roche, the 42-year-old human rights activist put forward by the Irish left-wing parties. Ms Roche is the bookies' favourite with odds of 6-4 on, compared with 10-1 against Professor McAleese yesterday.

Ms Roche is famed for her work alongside Ali Hewson, Bono's wife, on the Chernobyl Children's Project and is a former Irish Person of the Year. Bono and Mrs Hewson describe Ms Roche as "a great friend" and say they will give as much help to the campaign as possible.

The charity organises holidays in Ireland, Britain and the United States for young victims of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. It has also dispatched hundreds of tonnes of supplies to the area.

Ms Roche, originally from Tipperary, has a strong record on humanitarian issues. She does not have the professor's intellectual strength or knowledge of constitutional law, which may place her at a disadvantage during the six-week campaign. She was nominated earlier this week by the Irish

Labour Party and quickly

backed by the Democratic Left.

Dana, 44, a mother of four, has secured the backing of four county councils to run in the election. She lives in Alabama, the heart of the American Bible Belt, where she hosts a chat show on Mother Angelica, a cable television station, and regularly

sings for the Pope. She will mount a large-scale campaign, with financial backing from anti-abortion groups in Ireland and the United States. Since August the bookies have shortened her odds of securing the presidency from 100-1 to 8-1.

Ms Banotti, 58, is standing for Fine Gael. A nurse turned politician, she is a niece of

Michael Collins, the founding father of the IRA, and sister of Nora Owen, the deputy leader of Fine Gael. She is divorced and brought up her daughter alone.

Before the nominations of the three other women, Ms Banotti was the bookies' favourite to win on October 30, but now she has been eclipsed.

Decision on Ulster workers could force change of law, reports Frances Gibb

Government fights human rights violation ruling

THE Government is contesting a ruling by the European Commission on Human Rights which says it has violated human rights in Northern Ireland by blocking people who are deemed a security risk from seeking redress in the courts.

The commission unanimously found that in two cases Roman Catholics who were refused public works building contracts on alleged "security risk" grounds had had their human rights breached because they had no way of challenging the decisions.

In both cases, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland had issued certificates which effectively blocked the men from mounting claims that they had suffered religious discrimination.

The commission has already referred its finding to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg for a final ruling, expected next year. But in a rare move, the

Government has also referred the case to the court, indicating that it intends strongly to contest it, despite its policy to incorporate the human rights convention into law.

In recent months the Government has also referred one other case, tried to refer a second (which fell outside the time limits) and is expected to refer a third.

In the latest case, Patrick and Gerard Tinnelly and their company John Tinnelly & Sons tendered for demolition work with the Northern Ireland Electricity Services. Their tender was the lowest, but they won neither the contract nor a sub-contract.

They lodged a complaint with the Fair Employment Agency (now commission) for Northern Ireland.

The Secretary of State then issued a

certificate under section 42 of the Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act that the decision not to award the contract had been on national security grounds, with the effect that they could not pursue their complaint.

In the second case, a contractor submitted the names of Kevin, Michael, Paddy and Barry McEluff as the people he intended to employ on contract works with the Department of Employment in Omagh, Co Tyrone, but security clearance was refused. They too made a complaint under the Fair Employment Act that the refusal of the contract was discriminatory and the Secretary of State likewise issued a certificate barring the tribunal from hearing their claim.

The Tinnellys and the McEluffs say that

the certificates denied them access to a court in violation of the European convention. The courts, they said, should be able to determine whether national security reasons had justified the refusal.

The Government claimed that the restrictions on access to a court were necessary. There was a need, it said, for confidential security vetting in public works contracts.

The contractors' cases were argued by Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, with the backing of the Fair Employment Commission, which is aware of 50 cases involving certificates, mostly in the public sector, since 1990. Bob Cooper, chairman of the Fair Employment Commission, said: "If the European court follows suit, we shall be looking to the Government to change the

law. We have for a very long time said that the issue of these certificates should be subject to some form of scrutiny."

The procedure was also attacked in June by the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights which called for "effective judicial scrutiny of whether an act was in fact done for the purpose of safeguarding national security or of protecting public safety or public order".

Lord Lester brought a previous successful challenge at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg when security certificates were issued to block sex discrimination claims by women part-time reservists in the RUC who were not allowed to be armed. The court held that alleged victims of sex discrimination could not be stopped from having the merits of their cases examined, even where national security was involved. The law had to be modified.

Literacy deputy to head Parole Board

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

USHA PRASHAR, deputy chairman of the National Literacy Trust, was appointed last night to be the next chairman of the Parole Board.

Ms Prashar, 40, will take up the post next month and is expected to bring the board, which considers when prisoners can be released on parole, more into the public eye. Ms Prashar has spent almost all her career working in quangos or voluntary organisations since she joined the Race Relations Board in 1971.

Insiders said yesterday that Ms Prashar's appointment to the Parole Board, which surprised some observers, was linked to the contacts she had made since serving on the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Education and Conduct and her membership of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice. "Membership of those bodies gave her a considerable entry to the criminal justice system in which she is now well-connected," one source said.

Ms Prashar, who is married without children, came to this country on her own from Kenya as a schoolgirl to study for her O levels at Wakefield Girls' High School in 1964. Leaving the Duchess of Gloucester School in Nairobi and her parents behind, she lived with her late brother in Featherstone, Yorkshire.

Brenda Prashar, her sister-in-law, said: "She is a remarkable person. She arrived in this country on her own to complete her education. It was not easy for people from that background then. It was a strange situation for all of us. It was very difficult".

Within two years of arriving in this country, she was head girl of the Yorkshire direct grant school. She took a degree in political studies at Leeds University followed by a postgraduate diploma in social administration at Glasgow University.

Since then Ms Prashar has held a series of jobs and positions. One source said: "She pops up in a lot of places. Her networks are immensely good."



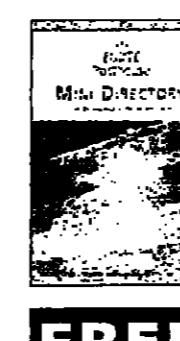
Prashar: expected to put board in public eye

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Bottled water is overpriced con, say rivals

BOTTLED water is an expensive marketing trick and sometimes contains bacteria that make it less healthy than tap water, it was claimed yesterday.

A report from the Water Companies Association, which represents 17 privatised firms, urged the £1 billion bottled water industry to "clean up its act" by reducing prices, reviewing marketing methods and making its packaging and transportation less damaging to the environment. But the British Soft Drinks Association claimed that superior taste and quality was behind bottled water's success.

Pamela Taylor, chief executive of the Water Companies Association, described bottled water as "one of the great icons of the 20th century ... It is marketing's answer to the emperor's new clothes."

But Robert Hayward, director-general of the soft drinks association, said: "Consumers buy our products because of their taste, consistency of quality and convenience."

According to the report, bottled water differs little from tap water, but consumers are

A report has called for the industry to clean up its act, reports Joanna Bale

paying "massively over the odds" for it. A litre of tap water costs, on average, 0.07p, while a litre of bottled water costs, on average, 50p. The report said there was no justification for the huge price difference.

The report cites a survey by Leeds University last year which found that almost 2 per cent of still bottled water in supermarkets contained sufficient bacteria to fall below national standards. "Once a bottle has been opened, bacteria can grow in the water, unlike tap water, which contains minute quantities of chlorine to protect it. In health terms, leaving out an opened bottle of water is just the same as leaving out a piece of meat."

The report questions the marketing methods used to sell bottled water, with its images of health, sport, and vitality. The British Olympic Association, British Association for Sports Medicine and the British Medical Association saw no advantage in drinking bottled water.

The report says that tap water is more closely controlled than bottled water.

SLAKING YOUR THIRST IN STYLE

The most expensive bottled water is thought to be from the American designer label DKNY at £1.50 for 480ml (about £3.13 a litre).

It is described by its manufacturers as "clear and refreshing alpine spring water" from a California source. It is sold in a clear plastic bottle featuring a label with the DKNY logo and a picture of New York taxis. There is also a nozzle to drink from rather than a screwtop. The bottles are available only at the Donna Karan shop in London.

A Times survey of top restaurants found that they will all serve customers tap water if re-

quested. A spokeswoman for Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons in Great Milton, Oxfordshire, gave a typical response: "We do not offer it unless they make a special request, but that rarely happens. We believe there is a difference in taste and quality." The restaurant charges about £2 for a large bottle of Evian or Badoit.

DKNY water comes from a California bottler who sells the same water to a supermarket chain where it retails for a fraction of the price. A DKNY spokeswoman yesterday declined to comment on how the company could justify its high charges.

"While bacteria levels in bottled water are only regulated for the first 12 hours after bottling, bacteria levels in tap water are controlled right up to the point at which it reaches the consumer."

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The report says that tap water is more closely controlled than bottled water.

WPC in racism claim 'made string of errors'

BY RICHARD DUCE

A JEWISH American trainee policewoman was given a "D for common sense" rating after a series of errors that led to her sacking from the Metropolitan Police, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

It seems rather surprising that an industry [tap water] that has had to turn to us on more than one occasion to ensure consumers continue to receive water supplies is now criticising us. One could say that an industry that has had to deal with problems such as cryptosporidium outbreaks, pollution of water supplies from diesel, lead and nitrates, *E. coli* contamination and discolouration, to name but a few, would appear to have more than enough to keep it busy."

Mrs Berton, 30, from Soho, the first Jewish American woman to join the Metropolitan Police, is claiming unfair

dismissal on the grounds of racial discrimination. She says assessment of her work at Belgrave police station was a conspiracy to get her sacked because she was a "stereotypical, loud, brash Yank".

Georgina Kent, for the Metropolitan Police, highlighted other flaws in Mrs Berton's work which led to her dismissal in June last year. She was considered "not likely to be come an efficient and well-conducted constable".

In August 1995 she failed to report that a prisoner had temporarily escaped before being recaptured during a hospital visit. Mrs Berton, who holds joint British and American nationality, was also accused by a fellow officer of falling asleep while guarding a prisoner in hospital, a claim she denied yesterday.

The tribunal heard that Mrs Berton, a divorced mother of one, also wrongly filled in a custody observation report for a prisoner who had been released five hours earlier. Asked why she had tried to involve social services when the mother left her children in a car in Central London, Mrs Berton said: "I thought it was

terribly reprehensible. I was absolutely appalled. There were three young children. Two were crying and one was a baby." Miss Kent said: "To notify social services that children were at risk — do you think that was the correct procedure?" Mrs Berton replied: "I defend my actions. I am a mother."

At a case conference called to discuss her future with the police, her senior officer gave her a B for enthusiasm but D for common sense. Miss Kent told the tribunal.

Mrs Berton, a graduate from Boston University, moved to London in 1985. She dreamt of joining the police after gaining British citizenship and started as a probationer with the force in 1994.

She has told the tribunal she became the victim of "blind racism" and one officer told her not to wear lipstick because her lips were too large. Mrs Berton said she had been the victim of a "witch hunt" where all her mistakes were picked up by senior officers who constantly monitored her performance.

The hearing in Croydon continues today.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Teenager in court over school attack

A 15-year-old boy appeared before Preston magistrates yesterday, accused of wounding Jamie Evans, aged 16, who was stabbed in a school corridor on Tuesday. The youth, who cannot be named, was released on conditional bail and is due to appear before Preston Youth Court today. He spoke only to confirm his name, age and address throughout the ten-minute hearing. Reporting restrictions were not lifted. Jamie was in a stable and satisfactory condition in Blackpool's Victoria Hospital yesterday after the knife attack.

150,000 VWs recalled

Volkswagen has recalled 150,000 cars in one of the biggest safety alerts in Britain. Dealers have called back Ventos and Golfs made between 1994 and 1997 for faulty headlamp wiring. The company's biggest recall was in May 1995, when 310,000 Golfs were ordered back to dealers because of engine overheating problems. Nearly 300,000 cars have been recalled by 12 motor companies since the beginning of July.

Motorcycle youth held

A 13-year-old boy was held by police on suspicion of being drunk in charge of a motorcycle after a head-on crash in which another boy was killed. David Tucker, 14, who had not been wearing a crash helmet, died in hospital from head injuries after he and the other youngster crashed into each other while riding scramble motorcycles in a field at Lane End, Buckinghamshire. The youth was released without charge and police inquiries are continuing.

Dakota's daughter dies

The daughter of a member of the Sixties pop band Billy J. Kramer and the Dakotas died after being struck by a car near her home. Linda Maxfield, 9, of Stockport, near Manchester, was kept alive on a life-support machine after the accident on Monday, but her parents made the decision to switch it off 24 hours later. Her father, Mike, was the original lead guitarist in the band and is now a business lecturer at Salford University.

Family seeks lost ashes

A bereaved family have complained that they have been unable to grieve for nearly a year because Parcelforce lost their mother's ashes. Ivy Handel died at 75 in Brisbane, Australia, last year after emigrating there 12 years ago. Her ashes were to be scattered around the family plot in East London, but never arrived. Parcelforce has offered £250 in compensation, but the family have declined.

Itchy bull trips switch

A South Western Electricity Board technical team called out to trace the source of a series of power cuts that blacked out supplies to dozens of homes around the Westonzoyland area of Somerset discovered that a bull had rubbed through a cable while trying to scratch its back. The exposed wire came into contact with another cable, causing the power to trip.

Cash for ancient boat

A Bronze Age boat found five years ago during road excavations in Dover is to go on permanent display after the award of £955,000 from the National Lottery. The timbers of the 3,000-year-old boat have been soaked in soluble wax to strengthen them before being freeze-dried. It will be displayed in an air-conditioned gallery which has yet to be built.

Chocolate on the tracks

The sweet company Mars began its first venture into the chocolate-box market with the launch of Celebrations, a selection of miniature replicas of Mars, Snickers, Bounty and Galaxy bars and Maltesers. A train full of celebrities left London yesterday to travel the country promoting the new brand, which hopes to capture a big share of the £600 million chocolate-box market.



Tamara Berton outside the hearing: she claims she was a victim of blind racism

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Auction at mansion untouched by time

BY JOHN SHAW

THE contents of an Edwardian country house in Scotland, barely disturbed since the turn of the century, are to go on sale next week.

Ladykirk, at Monkton, near Prestwick, South Ayrshire, was built by Robert Angus, a mining magnate, in 1903. It was furnished in the height of contemporary taste and completed in 1906.

Next Tuesday and Wednesday items ranging from Edwardian straw hats to day dresses to a full-size billiard table will be auctioned on the premises for an estimated total of £300,000.

Auction-goers will be struck by the elegant interiors. Each room reflects a different style, from Chippendale to Louis XV, and Jacobean to high Victorian. All are virtually unchanged since 1906 and even the receipts for furniture have survived.

The decision to sell has come from the present generation of the family who want to move to a smaller house and scale down the family possessions. Daniel Angus said: "Although it saddens us all greatly to have to part with Ladykirk, the responsibilities of maintaining a property of this size have proved too much in recent years."

The Victorian pictures, silver and English and continental ceramics reflect a bygone era. A complete library will be sold by Phillips, including a copy of *The Peter Pan Portfolio*, a limited edition of illustrations by Arthur Rackham from 1910.

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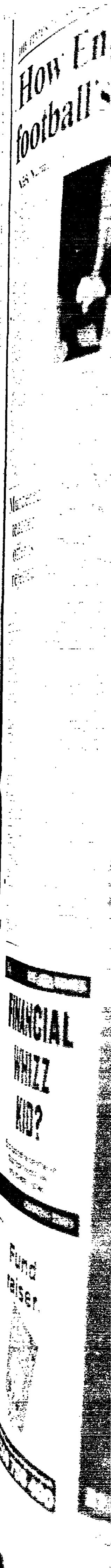
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Five pit verbal skills in Preacher of the Year final

By RUTH GLEDHILL

FIVE preachers have been chosen from a shortlist of 30 to go forward to the final of the third Times/College of Preachers Preacher of the Year award.

The three men and two women are all Anglicans. Four are ordained and just one is a lay preacher or reader. They will preach on holiness at a service at 2pm at Durham Cathedral on November 12, where entry is open to all. Their sermons will be assessed by a panel chaired by the broadcaster Joan Bakewell, and which will include the finalists from last year.

This year's finalists were picked from more than 200 entries by a panel from the College of Preachers, who assessed the original entries and then visited the 30 shortlisted preachers in their home parishes.

The shortlisted sermons will be published in *The Times Best Sermons for 1998* (Mowbray). The winning preacher will receive a £1,000 bronze or a dove by the sculptor Ros Stracey.



THE REV NEVILLE MANNING, 56, is Rector of St Leonard's, Denton, in East Sussex. "I see preaching as a pastoral activity. It is part of wanting to share things with people, to feed them and nurture them." He spends a week working on each sermon and commits them to memory.



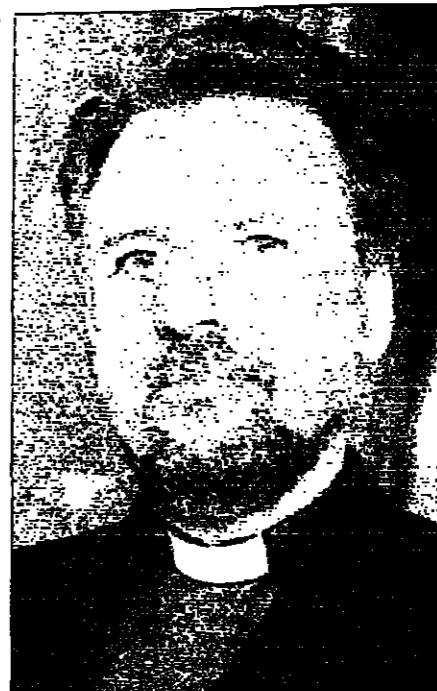
GILL GREEN, 56, a retired teacher and reader in the Church of England, attends St Peter's, a medieval church at Ousden near Newmarket, Suffolk. "Preaching is like telling people something they already know, but putting it in a different light. I do not like being in the pulpit. I prefer to walk around a bit."



THE REV PAUL WALKER, 34, is priest-in-charge of St Wilfrid's, Moorside, Sunderland, a new church which meets in a school. He became a Christian after trying "everything" as a teenager. "I found myself one day reading the Bible, something I had never done. I found the figure of Jesus remarkably appealing."



THE REV SALLY CHAPMAN, 42, is a team vicar in Short Heath, Willenhall, West Midlands. "I try to pick up on things that are current and relate to them. I like the opportunity to share part of my own experience and what I feel the Church is experiencing, then relating that to our experience as a community."



THE REV HARRY POTTER, 42, is a barrister who also serves as an honorary curate at St Giles, Camberwell, South London. "I found many years ago that, if I did a great deal or very little preparation for a sermon, it made no material difference whatsoever in terms of the quality of the sermon."

Christmas arrives early for church advertising drive

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

WITH only 98 shopping days to go before Christmas, the country's churches yesterday launched a seasonal advertising campaign which marks a return to a traditional message of the value of church-going.

In a tongue-in-cheek attempt to claim copyright ownership on the concept of Christmas, the posters and other literature feature the copyright symbol on the word Christmas.

Heading a campaign that would cost £250,000 if 90 per cent of the work and space were not being donated free, the churches' advertising network is to cover billboards nationwide with brightly col-

oured posters promoting churchgoing this Christmas. Churches of all denominations are being urged to buy A4-sized posters for their church noticeboards to pay for the remaining £25,000 of the campaign.

The campaign represents a departure from the controversial style that brought strong criticism of last year's Christmas campaign, which used the slogan "Bad Hair Day" and featured drawings of three cartoon Magi.

This year's Easter advertising campaign was also unsuccessful and had to be withdrawn after the network ran into difficulties over whether it was entitled to use a

CHRiSTMAS

GREAT SINGING FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AND SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

The churches' seasonal poster, which claims copyright on the word Christmas

Bad Hair Day campaign and who works for a London advertising agency, said: "Copyright on Christmas has not expired because God is not dead. We are taking out copyright on Christmas in the name of Christ, who is still alive."

The advertisement was created by four advertising executives, including Nick Drummond, of M & C Saatchi, who worked on the "demon eyes" poster for the Conservative Party, which attacked Tony Blair. The churches campaign has been

restricted to the use of words rather than pictures in an attempt to keep costs down.

Mr Griffiths said: "For many years, Christmas has been too commercialised. A marker needs to be put down so that the preciousness of Christmas is preserved. In an attempt to do this in a creative and attention-grabbing way, we have decided to copyright Christmas."

The Rev Tom Ambrose, director of communications in the diocese of Ely, said: "The law of copyright protects the product of someone's skill.

creativity, labour and time. We reckon that just about sums up God's input into Christmas and, as His representatives, we are laying claim to that right."

"Christmas has been hijacked in the high street and we want to let people know that much of what they are getting in December is not the real thing. If they want a genuine Christmas, then church is the best place for experiencing it."

The posters will appear in December and be reinforced by a radio commercial.

'Baughen again' Christians keep it in the family

WHEN the congregation of St James's, Clerkenwell, intones the familiar words "In the name of the Father and of the Son", they are likely to have more on their minds than God alone, because the church is about to receive an unusual father and son ministry (Ruth Gledhill writes).

The Right Rev Michael Baughen, 67, former Bishop of Chester, will on Monday be licensed as priest-in-charge of the inner London parish. At the same service, his son, Andrew, 33, will be licensed as a priest in the parish.

Andrew, who is married with two daughters, said he has admired his father from his days as vicar of All Souls, Langham Place — Central London's leading evangelical church. He said that he and his father had different gifts to offer: "I am incredibly proud

of my dad. I will really enjoy having him around."

Although his father will not be paid, he intends to be present at the church for as many Sundays as possible, and they will share the preaching and strategy development. Bishop Baughen said: "It will be wonderful to work with my son. He has got tremendous gifts and it is a great delight to be able to learn from him."

St James's, which has a congregation of 30, has been without a priest for 14 months. Andrew is moving from a curacy at St Mark's, Battersea Rise, a South London evangelical church with a congregation of 300.

Proposed changes include a Sunday morning service staged like a film set and an evening service in discussion format.

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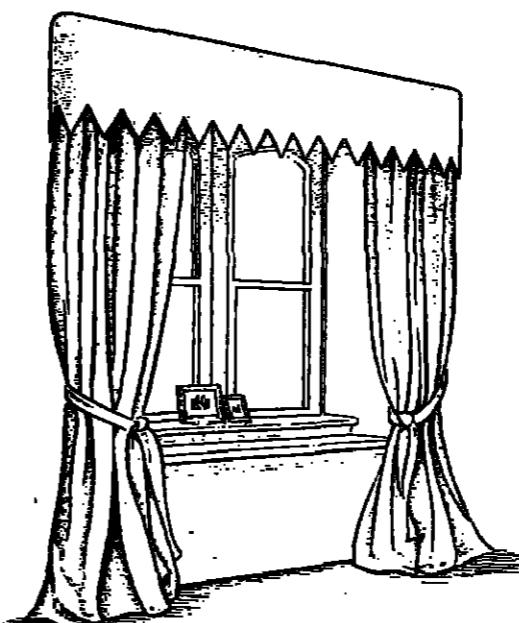
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Briton is deported over Burma protest

A BRITISH student who was arrested after staging a one-man protest against the military regime in Burma was deported yesterday as his mother admitted: "I felt like boxing his ears."

James Mawdsley, 24, who spent two nights imprisoned in Rangoon, was escorted by Burmese security police on to a flight to Bangkok, where he plans to stay with friends. Mr Mawdsley was arrested on Monday after handcuffing himself to railings outside a school in Rangoon, chanting pro-democracy slogans and spraying a wall with the Burmese word *metta*, which means love and kindness.

His mother, Diana, a nurse who lives in Durham, said she was delighted that he was safe. "When I heard about what had happened I felt like boxing his ears, I must confess. But that was tempered with the desire to give him a hug."

He is very passionate about the plight faced by the people of Burma. He is not some crazy boy running around doing things off the cuff."

Mr Mawdsley was interrogated for eight hours by security officers and gave only his name and nationality. He refused to discuss the reasons for his protest, talking only about his family, according to Mrs Mawdsley, who spoke to him by telephone yesterday.

"He's watched enough old war films to know how to

Student's mother says, 'I could have boxed his ears' after demonstration ends in arrest, writes Emma Wilkins



Mr Mawdsley teaching schoolchildren in the jungle

deflect the anger of the interviewers," Mrs Mawdsley said. "I think he's on a bit of a high at the moment — although he knows he will never be able to go back to Burma, which is a shame."

Mr Mawdsley had been living in the jungle on the border of Thailand and Burma since February, helping to teach English to local children.

His father, David, a property manager who lives in Kensington, West London, said: "James deliberately set up the protest and thought it

through very carefully." Mr Mawdsley, who is divorced from James's mother, said it was the first time his son had become actively involved in human rights issues. "He has never done anything like this sort of protest before. I am rather proud of him."

His sister, Emma, 26, a geography lecturer at Durham University, discussed the planned protest when her brother visited her earlier this year. "He really thought this through with me before he decided to go ahead with it. His intention was not really to

be arrested, but he knew it was a risk and he was prepared to take it."

Earlier this year Mr Mawdsley visited students in British universities to talk about the political situation in Burma. His protest marked the ninth anniversary of the suppression of the pro-democracy movement in the country. The military regime ignored the results of democratic elections and quashed a popular uprising. Thousands of people were killed.

Mr Mawdsley, who went to Scarisbrick Hall, an independent school near Ormskirk, Lancashire, passed five A levels despite a life-threatening kidney tumour which confined him to a hospital bed for seven months when he was 17.

He read physics and philosophy for a year at Bristol before abandoning his studies to travel to New Zealand and Australia. He holds dual British and Australian nationality as his mother is Australian.

His twin brother, Jeremy, is a lieutenant in the Royal Artillery who has served in Bosnia and Northern Ireland. He has one other brother, Jonathan, 25.

After his release, Mr Mawdsley was interviewed by the British Ambassador to Burma, who ensured that he had been well treated while in prison.

"He appeared to be none the worse for having spent two nights in custody," a Foreign Office spokesman said.



James Mawdsley, who was arrested after shouting pro-democracy slogans

Grieving son gave poison to stepfather

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A MOTHER'S death from cancer left her husband and son divided by grief, a court was told. Her husband never talked about her death, and her son felt it was all too much to bear when the family home was put up for sale.

Anthony Russell, 20, was so upset that he laced his stepfather's rum with sulphuric acid. It caused no lasting harm and was a way of crying for help, Northampton Crown Court heard yesterday as Russell was sent to a young offenders' institute for six months for administering poison.

Russell and his elder brother, Ian, had helped their stepfather, Nigel Russell, to nurse their mother through her long illness. Afterwards, the stepfather never discussed their grief and did not share £45,000 from life insurance with the two sons.

A year later, Anthony Russell saw a "For Sale" sign outside their £80,000 house, and his stepfather told him to find somewhere else to live. Ben Maguire, for the son, said that tipping acid into the bottle of dark rum was "a cry for help — he felt let down".

His stepfather, a 45-year-old gas fitter, took a sip and spat it out when he felt a burning sensation. Mr Russell said: "Anthony was not working. He was sitting at home doing nothing. I could not manage the house on my own. There were so many memories of my wife. I did not want to stay."

Robots drive away petrol station staff

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

THE first automated filling station in Britain heralds an age when motorists might never again see a human petrol attendant. After the hole-in-the-wall cash machine comes the filling station with pump but nobody to pay.

The forecourt outside the Waitrose store in Newark, Nottinghamshire, is in stark contrast to motoring's halcyon times when an attendant pumped the petrol into the car, wiped the windscreen and then took the cash into a little office cluttered with oil cans and a fading girlie calendar.

Now motorists buy a charge card in the store in multiples of £5 or use a credit card to swipe at the pump. They

simply drive in, swipe the card — which gets an automatic credit check — pump in the petrol, collect a receipt and drive out again.

Nearly 150 miles away in an office at Kuwait Petroleum in Staines, West London, operators monitor the petrol station by computer. They can tell when new supplies of fuel are needed or if maintenance should be carried out. Motorists baffled by the technology have been few and far between, although store staff say that some have turned up clutching cash wondering how they could pay.

Shell is also testing a fully robotic station which will mean motorists do not even

have to get out of the car. A robot will pump the petrol while a machine asks for payment at the driver's window. Shell is watching results from a robot forecourt in Sacramento, California, to find out if it would work here.

When the motorist drives in, a red light signals when to stop while a windscreen transmitter tells the robot the make and age of car so it knows where to look for the petrol cap. The robot's arm unscrews the cap, and inserts the nozzle which forms an airtight seal so that fuel can be pumped at four times the normal rate. An automated teller swings up to the driver's window to take a charge or credit card.

When the fuel is in, the robot screws the cap back on and the light changes to green to signal that the transaction is completed. So far, tests have worked well — though the robot has been baffled by drivers of Aston Martins, Rolls-Royces and Jaguars because their filler caps are in unconventional places. Some Jaguars have two filler caps.

The opening of Britain's first self-service forecourt at Southwark Bridge in London 26 years ago ushered in an age when motorists had to get out of their cars to fill up. Robot attendants might mean they can relax in the driving seat once again.

PETROL'S CHEQUERED HISTORY

■ The word petrol was made up by Frederick Simms, a motoring pioneer, to allay fears about the volatility of motor spirit. He decided people could not complain about petrol because they did not know what it was.

■ The first drive-in filling station was opened in Detroit, USA, in 1910.

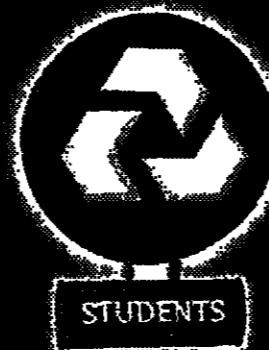
■ Leaded petrol was introduced in 1921 to make engines run more smoothly and reduce mechanical wear.

■ Widespread use of unleaded petrol in Britain grew as laws demanded that all new cars on sale from 1993 be fitted with catalytic converters, designed to cut exhaust emissions by 90 per cent.

■ A recreation of a garage from the 1930s at the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, Hampshire, stirs memories of names once familiar on pumps, such as Coalene, Redline and National Benzole.

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Storm over safety in Africa's skies

R. W. Johnson reports on pilots' fears after mid-air collision

THE mid-air collision of two military planes — a German Tupolev Tu154 and an American C141 Starlifter — off the Angolan coast, with the loss of 33 lives, has again dramatised the anxieties of civil airline pilots over the parlous state of air traffic safety procedures over much of Africa.

There seems little doubt these procedures were again deficient on this occasion, for it seems likely the two aircraft were never told of their nearness to each other or even that they were on the same flight path. That this was not known for certain three days after the crash highlights the problem.

Ordinarily there would be a full record of all air traffic control communications on tape, allowing an immediate and definitive confirmation as to whether such routine information was given. In this case there was a delay of 24 hours before the disappearance of the planes was announced by the two air forces after both had spent many fruitless hours trying to establish their planes' whereabouts from var-

ious African countries. Volker Rühe, the German Defence Minister, made no bones about where he felt the blames. "Air safety in Africa has to be improved," he told a press conference. "Our military transport planes have never had an accident in 40 years. There were no safety deficits on our part."

Aviation safety in Africa is bound to be a key issue when the International Federation of Airline Pilots' Associations meets in Ghana this week, because both it and especially its South African chapter, Alpa-SA, have spoken repeatedly about the dangerous neglect of air safety procedures, particularly in the western part of the continent. This time it seems likely the Angolan authorities may be at fault.

In July, Alpa-SA said that last year Angolan air traffic controllers had reported 12 near-misses in their airspace.

round the bulge of Africa, as it did in apartheid days when sanctions forced such a route.

The problem is that International Civil Aviation Organisation standards are not compulsory, a fact that has caused some airlines to threaten the withholding of overflight fees or, in the case of South African Airways, to offer to pay the fees in kind by installing the necessary equipment in countries that lack it.

The only other means of pressure available would seem to be the expulsion of African countries from the International Civil Aviation Organisation or their airlines from IATA.

In practice, airlines are reacting to the danger by installing more and more anti-collision equipment and radars on board planes, although pilots say that reliance on such in-plane equipment is analogous to road safety being regulated by car horns rather than traffic lights, white lines, cats' eyes and highway codes.

Leading article, page 23

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Two survivors of the UN helicopter crash in central Bosnia on their way to a NATO military hospital in Sarajevo. Twelve people perished in the accident

Fighter accidents halt training flights

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon last night ordered a 24-hour halt to all military training flights after the night-time collision of two F16 fighter jets above the Atlantic Ocean, the fifth crash involving US military aircraft in as many days.

In a directive issued by William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, the heads of the US Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps were instructed to ground training sorties for the duration of a swift safety review. Operational

flights would continue, Mr Cohen said. The orders came after an accident late on Tuesday night when the two fighters, carrying pilots training for night-time flying, collided just minutes after take-off from the local National Guard base. Two men were forced to parachute into the ocean and a third to nurse his crippled plane back to land. All three pilots were safe yesterday.

The incident came seven months after another mishap involving two F16s from the 177th Fighter Wing in which the jets tailed a civilian aircraft so closely that the passenger plane took emergency evasive

action. This week, however, has seen a spate of accidents. On Monday, a Marine FA18 Hornet fighter crashed off the North Carolina coast, killing both pilots. A Navy FA18 fighter crashed in Oman on Sunday. The pilot also died. On the same day, an F117A Stealth fighter plunged to the ground during an airshow in Maryland. Its pilot ejected safely.

Details remain sketchy of a crash on Saturday in which a C141 Starfighter cargo plane is thought to have collided with a German military aircraft off the coast of Africa. Of the 33 people feared killed, nine were Americans.

REWARDING TIMES

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£2,000 TO BE WON TODAY — TURN TO THE EQUITY PAGE 33



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WEEKLY ACCUMULATOR GAME

The weekly accumulator game starts in *The Times* on Monday, September 22. To play the weekly accumulator game you simply add up your daily Portfolio totals, Monday to Sunday. If your accumulator total matches exactly the weekly portfolio accumulator dividend, published in *The Sunday Times*, you win or share the weekly accumulator prize of £10,000.

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE

Claims for *The Times* daily Portfolio dividend must be made to the Portfolio claims line on 0171-481 3388 between 9.30am and 3pm today. No claims can be accepted outside these hours and you must claim your prize the day you win. You must have your card with you when you claim. Other persons can claim on your behalf provided they have your card. No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours. In the event of more than one valid claim for any prize, that prize will be divided equally among the winners.

*You can get a Portfolio card by calling the card request line on 0171-481 3388 during normal office hours. There will be another gamecard in *The Times* on Monday, September 22, and cards are also available at selected newsagents.

Crash in
fog kills
12 on UN
helicopter

THE TIMES THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18 1997

WORLD
SUMMARYIranians
shot in
Pakistan

Gunmen on a motorcycle, almost certainly Sunni Muslim extremists, shot dead five Shia Iranian airforce technicians and their local driver in the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi yesterday (Christopher Thomas writes). One person was wounded.

Religious divisions pose an increasing threat to the Islamic state, whose class, political and economic conflicts mean it is a country struggling for survival.

DNA tests for
'The Fugitive'

New York: The body of Dr Sam Steppard, whose case inspired the long-running television show *'The Fugitive'*, was exhumed for DNA tests in an attempt to establish that he did not kill his wife (Tunku Varadarajan writes). He was convicted in 1954 of murdering his wife, Marilyn, and spent a decade in jail before winning his freedom in a retrial. He died in 1970.

Free French
war hero dies

Paris: The Allies lost one of their most courageous war heroes this week. French Brigadier-General Georges Berge, a Colditz survivor and the first Allied secret agent to be parachuted into Nazi-occupied France as part of de Gaulle's Free French forces, died on Sunday in France at the age of 88. (Susan Bell writes)

Troops patrol
riots capital

Jakarta: Soldiers and police patrolled the South Sulawesi capital of Ujung Pandang, still hit by sporadic violence on the third day of anti-Chinese unrest in which at least six people have died, residents said. "Mobs are still piling houses and shops," one said by phone. (AFP)

Swiss miffed
at howl in wall

Geneva: Residents of the Swiss village of Bernex, on the outskirts of Geneva near the French border, asked authorities to have an automated cash dispenser removed because of noise, claiming overuse by non-residents. (Reuters)

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Soldiers in drag battle for Congo capital

FROM SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA

HELICOPTERS strafed the already shattered streets of Brazzaville yesterday with rockets and cannon fire as fighting between government troops and militias in drag escalated in a final push for control of the city.

After the helicopters made leisurely sorties across Brazzaville killing inhabitants too old or ill to flee with other citizens, witnesses across the Congo River saw one aircraft hit and plunge to the ground in a plume of black smoke.

Aid workers said that the troops had copied images from the Liberian civil war and had started to dress up in looted wigs and women's clothing, with garish makeup. One foreigner who left the city recently said he had been held up at a roadblock by a militiaman "in full Father Christmas kit — including a long white beard".

Brazzaville's largely forgotten war is between forces of President Lissouba and the former President, Major-General Denis Sassou-Nguesso, leader of the "Cobra" militia, which has claimed thousands of lives and driven hundreds of thousands from their homes since June. The conflict has escalated since another militia leader, Bernard Kolelas, the Mayor of Brazzaville, joined forces with the Government this week, dragging his

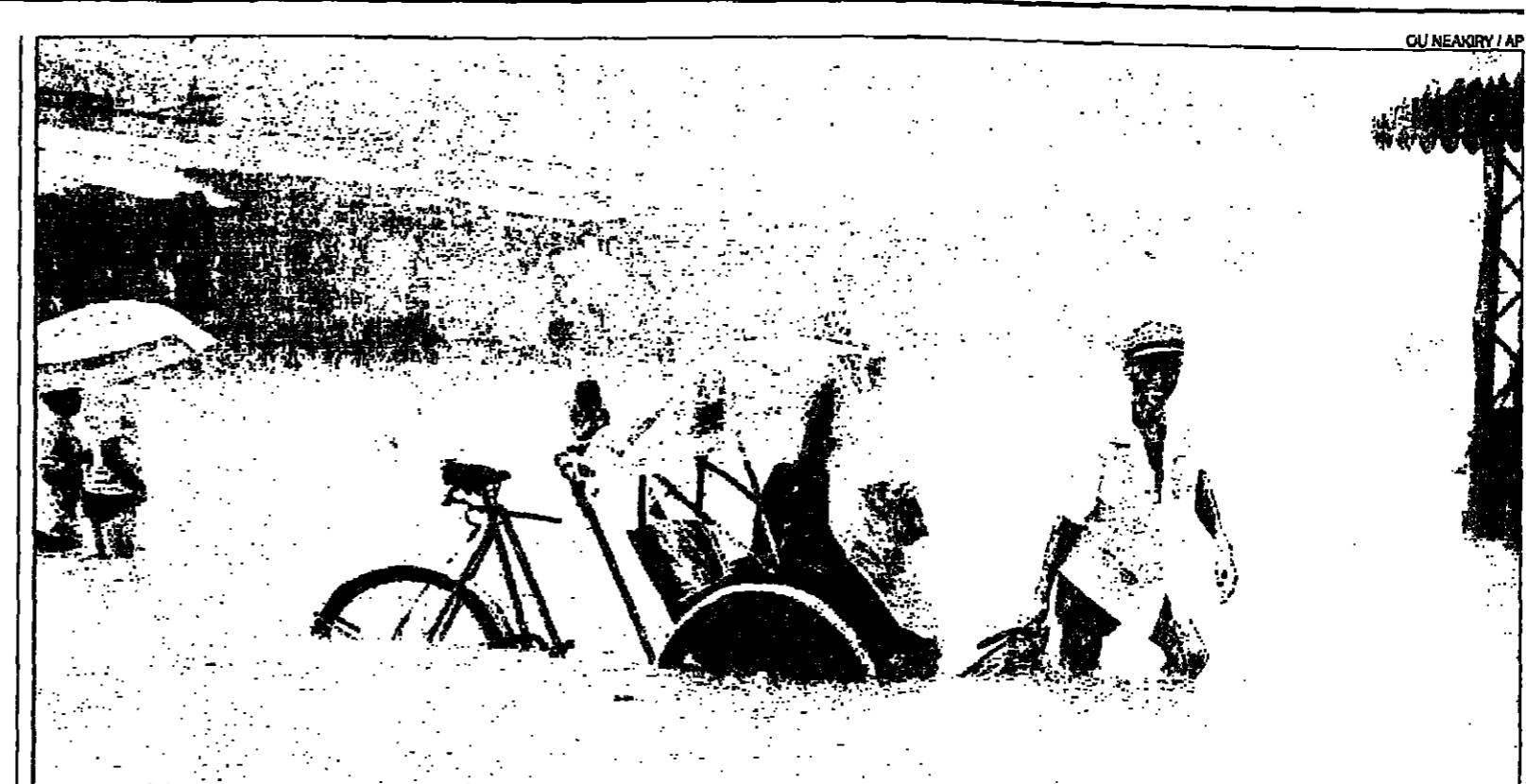
Mr Kabila, who took power with the help of Tutsi soldiers from Rwanda who continue to dominate his army, is anxious to preserve good relations with his eastern neighbour, whose troops are alleged to have slaughtered thousands of Hutu refugees. Reliant on the Tutsi fighters to keep him in power, he looked determined this week to sacrifice foreign support which is likely to be cut drastically if the UN investigation is closed.

"The backlash would be disastrous for the Congo," a European ambassador said.

Kabila clash with UN
threatens foreign aid

LAURENT KABILA, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was set yesterday for a clash with Kofi Annan over his refusal to allow United Nations investigations into widespread allegations of massacres (Sam Kiley writes). The clash could jeopardise badly needed foreign funding for the country.

Mr Annan, the UN Secretary-General, is expected to pull a team of 24 investigators out of the former Zaire this week if the Congolese President refuses to allow them to deploy without "ministers".



A cycle cab driver is reduced to dragging his fare as heavy rains flooded the streets of Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, yesterday

Sherry barons staggered by 'hangover-free' fino

FROM GILES TREMELT
IN MADRID

SORE-HEADED Spanish sherry producers are reeling from the appearance of what its inventor claims is the world's first hangover-free fino.

Jose Estévez's Tio Mateo fino should have encouraged citizens of Jerez de la Frontera to drink all night and dance all day. Instead it has produced one of the biggest headaches in the town's history.

The aristocratic families who run most of the town's centuries-old sherry bodegas say the claims being made for

the hangover-free upstart are grossly exaggerated. They refuse to accept the implication that ordinary sherry can be anything but good for you.

The town's Sherry Council has refused Señor Estévez permission to advertise the special properties of Tio Mateo on the bottle labels.

Señor Estévez says the secret to his fino's hangover-reducing properties lies in its low histamine levels. Histamine is blamed for many of the worst effects of hangovers, producing violent headaches, diarrhoea and even provoking asthma and allergy attacks. A self-made millionaire, Señor

Estévez has ploughed a large part of his fortune into the bodega he bought 20 years ago. But he says the old families have turned their backs on him. He blames his background as the son of a local labourer who quarrelled and sold wine bottles. "It is the old boy network that counts here," he said.

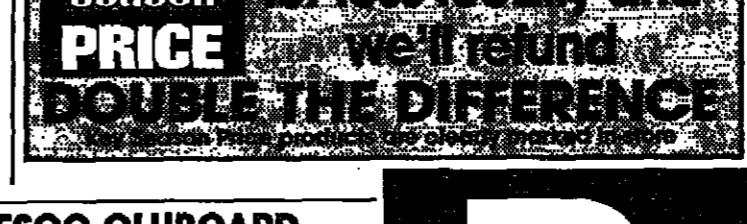
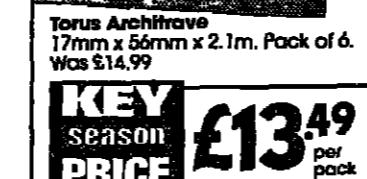
Señor Estévez claims his attempts to convert his fellow townsmen to the new fino are also being blocked by multinational drinks companies afraid of his success. "I have been the David to the Goliath of the multinationals," he says.

Six years of work with Germany's

Underberg winery, which also produces low histamine wines, has allowed him to perfect a technique for riddling sherry of the potentially damaging substance. Ordinary sherry contains up to 11mg per litre. Tio Mateo has less than 0.02mg.

But the Sherry Council refuses to recognise that low histamine necessarily makes a drink less liable to produce a hangover. It says histamine levels are even higher in many foodstuffs, such as cheese, strawberries and yoghurt. "Scientific opinion differs," sniffed one rival. "What really matters is the amount of the stuff you drink."

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America rejects global ban on landmines

AMERICA refused to sign an international treaty banning landmines agreed by 89 nations in Oslo yesterday. Eric Newsom, head of the American delegation, said the conference had refused to accept an American compromise formula that met Washington's security concerns.

He hailed the completion of the Canadian-sponsored treaty banning the use, storage or manufacture of all anti-personnel mines, and said it was a "significant accomplishment". But it would have been a much stronger treaty had the negotiators taken steps so that the US could have joined.

President Clinton, attempting to limit criticism of his rejection of a global landmine treaty, last night announced a series of unilateral measures by America designed to show its commitment to a worldwide moratorium. Speaking in the Oval Office, he said America could not sign up to a draft treaty that did not accept the unique responsibilities of the world's only superpower.

"Unfortunately, as it is drafted I cannot, in good conscience, add America's name to that treaty," Mr Clinton said. "There is a line I simply cannot cross which is the safety and security of our men and women in uniform. But America will continue to take the lead in ending the use of landmines."

The sticking point was America's demand to be allowed to keep mines deployed along South Korea's border with North Korea. The Pentagon has argued forcefully that, with the unstable situation in the Communist North and hundreds of thou-

The defence of South Korea is sticking point, write Michael Binyon and Tom Rhodes

sands of North Korean troops deployed very close to the border, removal of the mines would increase the risk of invasion.

America demanded a nine-year exemption for Korea, and also wanted to keep "smart" anti-personnel mines that self-destruct so that they could be deployed to protect anti-tank mines. It also wanted countries to be allowed to withdraw from the treaty, after six months' notice.

Swayed by the forceful rejection of these arguments by Lloyd Axworthy, the Canadian Foreign Minister and instigator of the Ottawa Process on landmines, delegates rejected the American proposals. They argued that other countries would argue for similar exemptions.

America initially refused to take part in the Ottawa Process, but then relented in response to world opinion. The campaign for a ban, powerfully boosted by Diana, Princess of Wales, led President Clinton to accept the principle. But over the past two weeks the Americans have twice changed their minds on whether they would accept a

total ban. They have until December to sign. Mr Newsom said America would announce its final position in the next day or so.

Mr Clinton said he had directed the Pentagon to develop alternatives by 2003 and that landmines would be withdrawn from the demilitarised zone between the two Koreas three years later.

Appointing a former senior military official as his personal adviser on the issue, Mr Clinton also pledged \$68 million (£42.5 million) towards demining efforts throughout the world, starting in Chad, Zimbabwe and Lebanon, and urged a 25 per cent increase in that figure starting next year.

Neither Russia nor China was present in Oslo, although Moscow has already declared a moratorium on the sale and use of mines. China is the main manufacturer of the cheap mines increasingly used by insurgents and guerrillas in the Third World. It is estimated that every year they kill or maim 26,000 people.

Under the terms of the treaty, each country must destroy all stockpiles by 2003, including all mines deployed in its territory. In theory Britain must remove all mines laid by the Argentinians in the Falklands, though this would depend on improving clearance technology in boggy land.

In December, Canada will launch the second stage of the Ottawa Process, which will deal with verification, mine-clearing technology and Western help for war-torn countries where reconstruction and agriculture must wait until the land has been cleared of mines.



Governor Pete Wilson examines an M16 assault rifle yesterday with Commander Rick Dinse, centre, and Lieutenant Anthony Alba

LA gun law puts heat on robbers

Assault rifles boost police arsenal as criminals echo film violence, writes Giles Whittell in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES has raised the stakes in America's inner-city arms race by issuing its police with 600 M16 assault rifles as a defence against the region's increasingly ruthless bank robbers, whose sense of reality, some say, has been distorted by crime films.

The weapons, designed for storming heavily armed enemy positions in time of war, will be assigned to senior patrol officers for use at their discretion. Pete Wilson, the California Governor, said yesterday.

His announcement fulfilled a promise to boost the Los Angeles Police Department's firepower after a shoot-out in February, in which officers were pinned down for several hours by two gunmen bristling with assault weapons who had robbed a bank.

The "battle of North Hollywood", as it was dubbed, was broadcast live on national television. It ended in the deaths of both robbers, but only after police improvised by running to a nearby gun store to borrow heavy, rapid-fire weapons.

The harrowing episode had uncanny echoes of scenes from the violent Michael Mann thriller, *Heat*.

"Never, ever again do I want to see officers from the Los Angeles Police Department outgunned," said Mr Wilson, a former Marine who made law enforcement at all costs a plank of his 1994 re-election campaign.

"Never, ever again do I want to see them having to rush to a gun shop in order to be able to equalise the firepower of the thugs." As he

spoke, police were sealing off another northern Los Angeles neighbourhood after a gun battle between security guards and a carload of masked robbers had left one dead and three missing.

The violence erupted soon after the 9am opening of a Van Nuys branch of the Great Western Bank in the San Fernando Valley. The two plainclothes guards opened fire on the robbers after seeing them pull on balaclavas in a car outside the bank's rear entrance, police said.

At least 12 shots were exchanged between the police and a man brandishing a 9mm machine pistol, who died at the scene of gunshots wounds.

In contrast to the North Hollywood robbery, in which 11 police and six civilians were wounded, no one else was injured.

The incident highlighted the escalating danger in some Californian neighbourhoods of brazen armed robberies, carried out in daylight by a grimly lethal breed of latter-day outlaw — but little emphasis was needed.

As other forms of violent crime dip, Los Angeles has become known to the FBI in recent years as the "bank robbery capital of the world". Police frequently respond to as many as four hold-ups a day, many of them in the San Fernando Valley, which forms the city's vast northern lobe and boasts several contrasting distinctions, including the world's largest car showroom, dozens of pornography studios and thousands of desirable hillside homes.

The bank targeted yesterday has been robbed twice before, in April and July last year, a spokesman said.

The gunmen killed in February's shootout were like

wise veterans of the city's bank robbery industry: Larry Phillips and Emil Matareanu were posthumously linked to two unsolved robberies, which were thought to have netted them up to \$1.7 million (£1,690,000), and two armoured car hijacks which experts likened to the opening sequence of *Heat*, in which a van carrying millions of dollars is caught in a deadly ambush.

Even in the more salubrious neighbourhoods of Los Angeles, bank visits by armoured cars are now tightly choreographed events featuring grim-faced guards with drawn weapons. Every second is filmed by security cameras and passers-by are wise to pause until the van departs.

The North Hollywood shootout brought new demands from gun-control advocates as well as police.

Two Democratic state senators, including Jane Fonda's former husband, Tom Hayden, called for new laws to close loopholes in the federal ban of assault weapons.

Russian and Chinese-made AK-47s, the weapons of choice of most robbers, are still easily obtained on the black market.

Designed in 1947 and for decades the Soviet Army's chief assault rifle, they are often smuggled into the US with small five-round ammunition clips then modified to take 75-round drums.

The newer M16, properly used, will pound most AK-47 users into submission. It can fire 800 rounds per minute, and is accurate to nearly half a mile.



Robert De Niro, left, and Val Kilmer in the film *Heat*, later imitated in real life

Marine who evaded Vietnam duty arrested after 30 years

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

ALMOST 30 years after he evaded the draft to Vietnam, a US Marine was yesterday under close arrest at a California army base as the Pentagon considered whether to charge him with desertion.

Randy Caudill, 48, was arrested at the northern border of Washington State as he attempted to return to Canada, his home since 1968.

A routine check by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service had found a warrant for desertion from the Marine Corps and Mr Caudill was flown to Camp Pendleton near San Diego, the base where he had trained as a radio operator before refusing the call to arms.

He was 19 at the time. The year had begun with the bloody Tet offensive, the acri-

al bombing of Hanoi and the siege of the Marine base at Khe Sanh. Angry anti-war protesters had taken to the streets of America and bitter divisions over the war had driven President Johnson to abandon re-election.

The United States this year sent an ambassador to Hanoi for the first time since the fall of Saigon and, perhaps most tellingly, Bill Clinton, an anti-Vietnam activist who evaded the draft, resides at the White House. But Mr Caudill nevertheless could face a maximum of five years in prison for desertion.

Although an amnesty was granted during the Carter Administration, it covered only those who had fled to Canada to avoid military service, not military personnel

who had deserted. Sent on holiday before his tour was deployed to Vietnam, Mr Caudill had spent a week with his family in Ohio and then, like so many others of his generation, chose to flee to Canada.

A resident of Winnipeg, Mr Caudill is married and has three daughters and two granddaughters.

Marine Corps officials were yesterday considering what charges to press against the former soldier. "The Marine Corps takes this very seriously," said Captain Scott Lopez, an official at Pendleton.

As Vietnam was not declared a war by Congress, the prospect of the death penalty enforced for desertion in time of a conflict was not considered an option.

Clinton spurns \$368bn tobacco deal with call for tougher action

By TOM RHODES

PRESIDENT CLINTON rejected a \$368.5 billion (£231 billion) tobacco settlement yesterday, concluding that the deal did not meet his ambitious goal of drastically reducing smoking among children.

Announcing his verdict on the settlement, made public in June after almost 90 days of negotiation between the tobacco industry and the attorneys-general of 40 states, Mr Clinton demanded tougher ac-

tion by Congress to achieve bipartisan national tobacco legislation.

He called for sharply increased penalties on cigarette makers if they did not meet targets to reduce the number of young smokers within a decade. The President said that, if all the penalties were imposed, the price per packet of cigarettes should rise by as much as \$1.50, more than double the estimated increase under the original proposal.

"This is not about money," Mr

Clinton said during an Oval Office announcement. "It is about fulfilling our responsibility as parents and as responsible adults. This is about changing the behaviour of the United States." Rather than deliver a point-by-point critique of the huge deal, Mr Clinton outlined issues to be addressed by new legislation which he said would seek to resolve the industry's legal and regulatory problems.

The White House refusal to endorse the plan, initially designed

to place 25 years of restrictions on smoking in exchange for well-defined limits on cigarette manufacturers' liability in legal actions, effectively drained the proposal of its remaining momentum.

It certainly removes any possibility that a deal, albeit in amended form, could come before Congress before its adjournment at the end of next month or the beginning of November. No action is expected before next year.

Apart from the increase in packet

prices, Mr Clinton said that any new settlement must give the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) more power over the control of nicotine. He said the tobacco industry should be held more accountable, offered the strongest possible incentives and urged to bring a voluntary end to cigarette advertising that targeted children.

Walking a careful political tightrope, and once again promoting Vice-President Al Gore as his negotiator-in-chief, Mr Clinton

said any new Bill crafted by Congress should protect farmers in the tobacco-rich Southern states.

His announcement was greeted with elation by anti-smoking forces which have been arguing with the White House that the original settlement ceded too much to the industry and did not hold makers accountable for their apparent knowledge of nicotine addiction.

Hailed by the attorneys-general as an historic achievement, the deal had contained an impressive array

of anti-smoking measures, including protections against secondary smoke, severe limitations on advertising and huge payments to reimburse states for smoking-related healthcare costs.

A White House task force concluded last week, however, that the deal limited the authority of the FDA and would fail to achieve the stated goal of reducing smoking by young people by at least 30 per cent in five years and double that figure in a decade.

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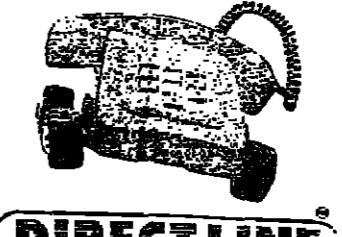
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Allegra and Daniel with their father Paul Beck, the husband of Donatella Versace, at the memorial Mass for the murdered designer in Milan in July

Versace millions go to sister's children

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Italian fashion world was stunned yesterday by the revelation that Gianni Versace, the designer shot dead in Miami Beach in July, had left the bulk of his fortune to his 11-year-old niece Allegra, with his priceless collection of paintings going to his eight-year-old nephew, Daniel.

Versace's brother and sister, Santo and Donatella, who were his business partners and have run the empire since his death, receive nothing. His lifetime friend and companion Antonio D'Amico, who was in Miami with Versace when the designer was murdered by Andrew Cunanan, receives £20,000 a month and the right to live in any of Versace's magnificent mansions in Miami, New York and Milan.

Control of the fashion house will rest with Versace's brother and sister, and they will manage the shares the designer bequeathed to his niece, the company said in a statement issued in Milan. It added that Donatella, 40, would assume all design responsibilities and that Santo, 53, would continue as the Versace group's chief executive.

Allegra and Daniel are the children of Donatella; the will was drawn up in September 1996, when Versace was recovering from treatment for a cancerous tumour and was described as being in an "elated" mood.

The Versace business empire last year made a profit of £28 million on a turnover of £320 million. Eighty percent of the group's revenue comes from exports. It has never been clear how the three Versaces divided ownership and control of the company. It

was Santo who took the leading role in running the business side of the Versace empire over the past two decades, leaving his younger brother Gianni free to concentrate on designing his flamboyant clothes as well as perfumes, furnishings and accessories. Santo had also been steering the Versace business towards flotation on the world's stock exchanges.

But there were rumours of tensions within the Versace family, and Santo was hampered by allegations of tax evasion. At one stage he was brought to trial together with other leading Italian figures from the fashion world on charges of having bailed tax inspectors to issue favourable audits. He was convicted and fined, but said he was the victim of a racket run by the Italian finance police.

There were also persistent reports — not proven — that Gianni Versace was murdered on the orders of the Mafia to cover up alleged money laundering, and that a "songbird", a traditional sign of a Mafia killing, was found by his body. He received damages from a British newspaper in 1994 after it claimed his turnover was linked to the Mafia, but he later remarked: "They can say I am a mahoso, and it can hurt you and hurt family values, but not any more. You have to say: who cares?"

Versace openly adored his nieces Allegra, whom he described as "my little princess". His nephew receives Versace's art collection, which includes paintings by Picasso and Leger as well as classical sculptures, and is estimated to be worth £40 million.



Versace, above right, gave his companion Antonio D'Amico, left, £20,000 a month. His sister Donatella gets nothing, but her son inherits his art collection

Russia's Christian minorities protest at pro-Orthodox Bill

FROM ROBIN LODGE
IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S Roman Catholic and Protestant communities appealed to President Yeltsin yesterday to intervene against a new draft law on religion, due to go before parliament this week, aimed at giving pre-eminence to the Russian Orthodox Church and curbing "non-traditional" faiths.

The Bill is a revised version

of a law passed this summer, but vetoed by Mr Yeltsin on the ground that it violated constitutional guarantees of freedom of worship. The new Bill, due to go before the State Duma tomorrow, includes amendments recommended by the President.

A joint statement issued by Russia's Catholic, Baptist, Adventist and Pentecostal communities said that the new version remained unconstitu-

tional, despite changes that recognised the rights of non-Orthodox Christian denominations: "If the agreed version of the law is passed, it will still be discriminatory."

The Baptists have been particularly outspoken in their opposition to the law. Although they have been in Russia for more than 130 years and are the largest Christian denomination after the Russian Orthodox Church, they

continue to face restrictions on their activities.

Aleksandr Vaprov, 40, has spent the past three years preaching from a converted lorry in various parking areas on the outskirts of Moscow.

Last week his pristine white trailer stood in a sea of mud

among about 200 battered lorries in a fenced site off Moscow's outer ring road. Lorries lurched and roared their way between mounds of

rubbish, crater-like potholes and jagged chunks of metal. In the middle of this chaos, the white trailer stood out like a beacon, near steel steps to a door in its side, next to the words in big blue capitals: "Transport for Christ".

Mr Vaprov left his job as a lift maintenance engineer to dedicate his life to preaching. Now he and his driver, Pyotr Ryzanov, travel round the Moscow ring road in a lorry given and fitted out as a mobile chapel by Baptists in the United States, stopping for a week or month in lorry parks round the city.

"I am from a Baptist family, the fourth generation," said Mr Vaprov, speaking inside the warm, wood-lined trailer with a row of plain benches screwed down to the floor.

"Three years ago, our pastor asked me to take up this work, talking to drivers and explaining the Gospel to them. And I have been here ever since."

But if the new law is passed

Mr Vaprov may soon find it

very hard to carry on.

The new draft includes other Christian denominations in the list of religions to be respected with "traditional" non-Christian faiths, such as Islam, Judaism and Buddhism. However, all "foreign" religions — those not registered in Russia for 15 years — will be banned from holding services or distributing literature.

Although some non-Orthodox denominations, including the Baptists, will be officially recognised, they will be severely restricted in practice from public religious activities or even charity work.

Mr Vaprov is resigned to the Bill going through, but adamant that he will continue his work. "Look at Russian history. Moments of freedom never last long. We have been persecuted in the past and must face persecution again."

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Violence grows after settlers defy Netanyahu

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM



Moskowitz: enemy of the peace accord

THE Israeli Government was involved last night in increasingly desperate talks to defuse the confrontation over Jewish settlement in east Jerusalem. Violence erupted after the Jewish-American millionaire at the centre of the storm took legal steps to try to prevent the eviction of Jews who have taken over two houses in the Palestinian suburb of Ras al-Amoud. About 300 Palestinians marched to the houses last night. They were turned back after scuffles with Israeli security men. There were also scuffles between Arabs and right-wing Jews coming to support the settlers.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, cancelled the second leg of a proposed trip to Europe. His visit to Hungary was scrapped after he abandoned plans to visit Romania. Amid Arab death threats

confirmed enemy of the 1993 Israeli-Palestinian peace accord who has spent millions of dollars buying property for Jews in areas of east Jerusalem unnnexed by Israel after the 1967 war, appeared undeterred when he arrived at the disputed property under heavy guard.

As the former doctor arrived amid a posse of security men hired after Islamic Jihad vowed to kill him, one Jewish man triumphantly blew a ram's horn outside the houses at the centre of the dispute which is threatening to plunge the Holy Land into a new wave of violence. The horn is the traditional instrument that the Bible says the Israelites used to bring down the walls of Jericho.

Earlier, Mr Moskowitz had petitioned the Supreme Court to prevent the police from expelling the 11 Jewish settlers from the houses, which he claims to have bought legally



Israeli border police struggle to keep a crowd of Palestinian protesters from the two houses in east Jerusalem occupied by hardline settlers

and to leasing them. The court appeal came after the settlers had rejected a compromise which would have seen them replaced by Jewish seminary students. The compromise was also angrily rejected

by the Palestinians, who have given warnings of an "explosion" of public anger if the evictions are not ordered before tomorrow's regular weekly Muslim prayers.

Moshe Peled, the Israeli

Deputy Education Minister, who had tried to mediate between Mr Moskowitz and Mr Netanyahu, urged the settlers to accept the compromise. "I am very afraid that if there is no agreement over

this, there will be a forcible evacuation," he said.

Up to 20 supporters of the ad hoc Land for Israel movement in the 120-member Knesset have vowed to try to bring down the Government if

the evacuation is ordered, claiming that it would contravene the essential platform of their movement: that Jews must be allowed to live anywhere in the biblical land of Israel.

Welcome for Fiji's return to fold

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN will strongly support Fiji's application to be readmitted to the Commonwealth at the Heads of Government meeting in Edinburgh next month.

Derek Fatchett, a Foreign Office Minister of State, said after visiting the South Pacific island group that his discussions with political leaders had confirmed the Government's view that Fiji's adoption of a new constitution paved the way for a return to democracy, better relations between the ethnic communities and readmission to the 53-member Commonwealth.

Fiji's membership lapsed in 1987 after two coups instigated by General Sitiveni Rabuka, the present Prime Minister. With the support of the indigenous inhabitants he overthrew the democratically elected Government, dominated by ethnic Indians, who form almost half the 800,000 population. The new constitution removes discrimination enacted against them.

Fiji has retained the Union Flag as part of its national flag and remained loyal to the Queen.

Readmission would have to be by unanimous vote, but there are fears that resentment in Delhi may lead to an Indian veto.

There are several potential new applicants for Commonwealth membership. Yemen has made a formal bid and Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority, has expressed interest. Mary Robinson, the outgoing President of Ireland, also spoke of her country's possible membership.

Britain's place in US hearts secure

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN NEW YORK

AMERICANS see Britain as their country's second-best ally after Canada, according to an opinion poll published here, confirming that the "special relationship" is alive and well.

Of the 1,007 American adults surveyed by the Harris Poll organisation, 63 per cent described Britain as a "close ally", a number exceeded only by Canada, which scored a resounding 73 per cent. Britain's figures are up by 1 per cent from last year and by 7 per cent from their all-time low in 1994, when only 56 per cent of Americans believed that their transatlantic cousins were close allies.

Australia, France and Mexico followed behind Britain in the ally hierarchy, polling 48, 36 and 30 per cent respectively.

China, not surprisingly, emerges as the country viewed by Americans as the most unfriendly, with 60 per cent of those surveyed stating that Beijing was either "not friendly" or an "enemy". Only 6 per cent described China as a close ally. Russia was next, with 45 per cent expressing their continuing distrust of America's former Cold War adversary.

The most intriguing findings, however, pertain to Israel, another country with which America believes it has a special relationship. Israel is viewed as a close ally by only 29 per cent, with 32 per cent regarding it as unfriendly or worse. Only China and Russia rank higher than Israel in the unfriendliness stakes. Japan is seen as a close ally by only 21 per cent.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES



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CONFRONTS THE SPICE GIRLS
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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS



Dr Thomas Stuttaford
reports on dementia; the benefits of coffee; slimming pills and side-effects; chronic eye problems; and a new form of mammography

Hope for those who suffer in Alzheimer's shadow

Doctors interested in Alzheimer's disease have been meeting in Stockholm this week, ready for World Alzheimer's Day on Sunday. Alzheimer's costs the nation £11.5 billion a year, £1.2 billion of which comes directly from the NHS budget. In the UK, some 600,000 people suffer from Alzheimer's disease, which affects 5 percent of the population at the age of 65, one in five at the age of 80, and one in four at 85. There are many causes of dementia in the elderly, but Alzheimer's accounts for 75 per cent of all cases.

It is a myth that all patients with Alzheimer's are elderly. Most are, but it has been reported in patients as young as 29, and is not infrequently seen in those in their fifties.

Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia are seldom out of the news, and there are few people who do not know someone who is suffering from the disease. Indeed, one prominent sufferer is former American President Ronald Reagan.

As is well documented, it causes a progressive loss of memory and patients with it find it more difficult to reason, and therefore to make quick judgments.

This lack of flexibility and slowness of thought easily leads to panic, so well demonstrated by "Jonesie", the Boer War veteran in *Dad's Army*, apt to rush about achieving nothing as he shouted "Don't panic! Don't panic!". Corporal Jones also demonstrated the lack of attention to turn-out and other signs of a disintegrating personality.

Patients with Alzheimer's become confused about where they are, and

the time of day. It is a common experience that patients with dementia forget that they have told you the same story 20 minutes earlier, have asked you the same question five minutes before, and fail to recognise their old friends.

It is less often realised that they forget familiar landmarks and so can easily become lost on a once-familiar journey. Last year, my host kindly offered me a lift to a nearby town where I was due to give a lecture. As we climbed into the car, he told me that he had done this journey every day for 40 years.

Perhaps we talked too much, but it

'Patients can lose their way while on a familiar journey'



Ronald Reagan is suffering from the severe memory loss that afflicts sufferers of Alzheimer's disease

soon became all too apparent that he was lost. Finally we made it to the lecture hall an hour and a half late. Thereafter I watched him carefully for the rest of the evening and it was obvious that he was showing many of the signs of early dementia. It was obvious to me because I was a stranger, but Alzheimer's is so insidious in its onset, as in this case, that it often goes undetected by those who live with the patient.

Suggestions that there are factors

that may delay the onset of

Alzheimer's usually produce angry

responses from the carers of patients

with the disease. A frequent theme is

that the sufferer was an individual of

great intelligence when younger,

always taking a lively interest in

the world, and that it is insidious to

suggest that Alzheimer's comes on

later in those with a high education,

and who had refused to abandon

intellectual pursuits in retirement.

The organisation Research Into

Ageing has been examining the

effects of education and previous

occupation on brain-reserve capacity in old age, in particular the retention of vocabulary and an understanding of the abstract meanings of words.

The survey showed that although these qualities are affected in everybody with Alzheimer's disease, patients whose interests were intellectual when they were younger do not show the symptoms of Alzheimer's quite as soon.

One of the more exciting research projects is on the effect of alcohol on Alzheimer's disease in later life.

There appears to be an apparent reduction in the incidents of dementia, along with a greater alertness, in elderly patients who drink a modest amount. This may be the result of the

higher levels of circulating oestrogen

with and hiding their early

symptoms."

There are many other projects

investigating the possible factors

affecting the time of onset of

Alzheimer's disease. There is evidence, for instance, that a high

cholesterol level is associated with an increased liability.

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projects is on the effect of alcohol on

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elderly patients who drink a modest

amount. This may be the result of the

higher levels of circulating oestrogen

found in those who enjoy a drink or two. Other studies have shown that HRT reduces the incidence of Alzheimer's.

Scope for research into Alzheimer's

disease is endless, and with an ageing

population it has obvious appeal. The

Alzheimer's Research Trust has al-

ready collected more than £1 million

in aid of a centre in Cambridge. Another £4 million is needed.

Alzheimer's Research Trust, Livans

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bridge CB2 5LQ (01223 843899).

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Caffeine is good for your health - after all

ALTHOUGH coffee and caffeine have traditionally had a bad press, this reputation is undeserved. In the past year or two, reputable medical journals have reported that caffeine can revive a flagging memory, can reduce accidents in night workers, can speed recovery from a cold and may even cut the suicide rate.

SJÖGREN'S Syndrome is a chronic inflammatory disease which causes a marked dryness of the eyes, mouth and other mucous membranes. In many cases these symptoms are associated with arthritis. Although Sjögren's Syndrome is little known, it is more common than systemic lupus erythematosus but less often diagnosed than rheumatoid arthritis. As well as the dis-

comfort caused by dry eyes, and the problems ranging from a lack of sense of taste and smell to dental decay, Sjögren's can cause more serious disease. Dryness in the respiratory tract can result in chronic bronchitis, even pneumonia, and it can also be involved in kidney disease, as

well as neurological problems

affecting the nerves leading to the face and the eyes. In women the lining of the genital tract is also unusually dry.

Dry eyes and mouth are usually regarded as the first symptoms of Sjögren's but a recent study reported in the *British Journal of Obstetrics* and *Gynaecology* has shown that, on average, women with Sjögren's Syndrome develop a dry vagina eight years before they notice a dry eye.

In a study of 240 women

who had seen their gynaecolo-

gist about painful intercourse,

seven were suffering from

Sjögren's, and not from any

psychological sexual dys-

function. They needed a lubricant rather than counselling.

caffeine improves its efficacy by 150 per cent. The disappointing aspect of this encouraging news is that no one could absorb the amount of caffeine needed to achieve this result because it would be toxic. Scientists, meanwhile, are working on caffeine-related substances, which might achieve the same effect.

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Slimming pills and the heart

British, as opposed to American, overweight patients who have taken slimming pills as part of their weight reduction programme should not be too concerned about the voluntary withdrawal of Ponderax and Adifax from the chemist. In Britain it has always been considered bad medicine to give a cocktail of slimming drugs to treat obesity. Most doctors have also made it plain to patients that when slimming pills have been needed, they should have been taken only for a limited time.

Conversely, in America, even reputable doctors have commonly prescribed a combination of drugs.

Durorimine, phentermine and Ponderax, fenfluramine has

been their favourite mixture, and it is this combination, which has caused the recent furore precipitated by the discovery that some patients who had taken it had developed heart disease. Fortunately, British doctors have always been expressly advised not to use a combination.

In August this year, the *New England Journal of Medicine* reported that there was evidence that the Durorimine/Ponderax mixture might be associated with heart disease, in particular damage to the mitral and aortic valves which resulted in their incompetence. This term means that the valve no longer closes tightly and therefore leaks. This leaking, technically regurgitation, can be detected by echocardiography in 30 per cent of a group of patients who had been given this combination of drugs.

Once the heart valve

leaks, the patient's heart has

to work harder to compensate for the heart muscle's less efficient pumping action.

In extreme cases, this lack of efficiency may cause the patient to be breathless, and suffer other signs of heart strain. The changes in the heart circulation can also

result in a change from the sound of the heartbeat and the patient may develop a "murmur". There is some evidence to suggest that a

valvular incompetence brought on by slimming pill combination may regress with the passage of time, but hard evidence on what is this most unexpected side-effect is not yet available.

Abrupt withdrawal of slimming pills for a person who has been taking them for some weeks can induce side-effects, including depression.

Every case must be considered individually but it is

suggested that the dose of Adifax should initially be reduced from two to one capsule a day for the week before it is stopped entirely and those who have been prescribed Ponderax should only take one every other day for a week, and then abandon the course.

Chemists will continue to keep stocks of the drug to enable this withdrawal regime to be implemented but will thereafter not supply either drug again. This complete withdrawal of these drugs is a precautionary measure and as yet there is no alarm about the situation in Britain.

There have been earlier reports of essential pulmonary hypertension, another form of cardiovascular disease, following the use of Ponderax, even when this drug was used by itself. In Britain, the best known sufferer of this lethal complication is Professor Julia Polak of Hammersmith Hospital in London, who needed a heart-lung transplant. In America a few cases of valvular heart disease have been found in patients who have taken Adifax alone.

Even in the States who are now suffering heart problems have on average taken the drugs for between six and 24 months. In Britain, a course of slimming pills was always restricted to three months.

People who have taken slimming pills and are worried are advised to see their doctor. If any abnormality, however trivial, is detected, they can be investigated by a specialist.

A helpline is available on 0800 980 7216.

New breast screen gives better picture

MOST doctors are impressed by the results of the early intervention that is possible when breast cancer is detected by a mammography. The tumour may then be removed when it is so small that it cannot be felt with the hand.

Evidence is accumulating that shows regular screening saves lives. But one of the problems of mammography that doctors — but not patients — have always been aware of is that the interpretation of a mammogram requires considerable skill. This is particularly true the first time a woman has been screened, as there is no previous film with which to make a comparison.

Pulse magazine recently reported that a new form of mammography is about to be introduced. The new apparatus is scheduled to start working this month at the Royal Free Hospital in London. Called a scintomammogram, it will help doctors to make decisions in doubtful cases by picking up the presence of any malignant cells after they have been marked by a radioactive tracer that has been

injected into the patient's foot.

The scintomammogram will be particularly useful in patients with very dense breasts, such as those on hormone replacement treatment. And when a scintomammogram is used, the breast does not have to be so firmly squashed — this not only gives better picture, but is also less uncomfortable for the patient.

Linda McCartney had cancer

in her breast.

She had a mastectomy in 1995.

She is now a campaigner for breast cancer awareness.

She is also a campaigner for animal rights.

She is also a campaigner for environmental issues.

She is also a campaigner for peace.

She is also a campaigner for democracy.

She is also a campaigner for human rights.

She is also a campaigner for women's rights.

She is also a campaigner for gay rights.

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She is also a campaigner for environmental issues.

She is also a campaigner for peace.

Only the
fittest to
survive
odyssey
to Mars



Times have caught up with politicians' wives and lives: Tony Blair and his wife Cherie; Michael Howard and his wife Sandra; Peter Lilley and his wife Gail; Neil Hamilton and his wife Christine

Once the stereotypical political partner was a pearl-decked typist in a Pugin-panelled office keeping the MP's secretarial allowance in the family; or a full-time wife and mother, perhaps, stoking the home fires back in the constituency. Either way she was loyal and able — and awfully good at opening fêtes.

But these days we have gay MPs with lovers claiming travel concessions; women MPs whose husbands, or long-term partners, are the supportive ones; and even a Prime Minister's wife with a bona fide career. It's not just the ruling party that has changed: times have caught up with Conservative politicians' wives and lives too.

For the stalwart Tory wives, of whom Neil Hamilton's wife Christine must be the patron saint, the realities of a future together in Opposition — or even out of Parliament altogether — are hard to adjust to. Sally Neuhert, organiser of the Conservative Parliamentary Wives Association, suffered greatly when her husband, Sir Michael, was thrown out of Romford after 23 years. As far as she was concerned, the outcome of May I was "like a death in the family. You get so many letters, and all they lack is a black border around them."

But for Gail Lilley, wife of Peter Lilley, now the Shadow Chancellor but previously the Social Security Secretary in the Major Government, there has been a liberation in defeat. "I've had 14 years of put up and shut up and I just said to my husband the other day, 'self-sacrifice has stopped'." For all those years of Tory rule, Gail had to hold her tongue. "Now it's over I can laugh about it, but I never talked about it at the time because I can't stand whingeing."

Gail, a successful artist and former fashion designer, recalls the sudden change in her life when her husband was first elected 14 years ago. "Suddenly there was no husband, just nothing. He would come in at midnight, two in the morning, four in the morning. Then you know you've been sidelined. They start to treat the home like a hotel and opt out of life."

Sometimes they're not even working. By phoning the number mysteriously labelled "Behind the Chair", she would find out if voting was going on late at night. "That way you'd know when they ought to be on their way home. But they're

not. They're milling around, scheming and plotting and charting. At the beginning, it was actually quite devastating."

Being the wife of a minister, she says, was even worse. "I remember once I had to call for Peter at the Treasury. They loathe wives there — it's a very masculine place. The driver took me up to the private office. They said: 'You can sit there and wait for him.' And there was my husband's door and outside the door there was this little hard chair. It was just like waiting outside the headmaster's office."

Then, at the Department of Social Security, "he used to get these diaries and there'd be a dinner engagement, 7.30 for 8, and at the bottom it would say 'Black tie, speech and Mrs Lilley'." That was where I came in the pecking order!"

Ministers' wives also have to absorb the abuse that is likely to come their husbands' way. Gail and Peter Lilley had their house daubed by fathers protesting about the Child Support Agency. "Then, several hours later, the single mothers came. Then we had the asylum-seekers. It's a lovely feeling now when I hear the news: 'The Government came under fire yesterday ...' It has been harder for Peter, though. 'My husband's been in Parliament for 14 years and he's never been in Opposition, so there's this huge period of adjustment. He's like someone who's come out of long-term care."

Others tell similar stories. When former Home Secretary Michael Howard's new paper bleated at a party soon after the election, he had no idea how to turn it off. "Didn't you have one when you were a minister?" asked his companion. "Yes," replied the Shadow Foreign Secretary, "but I had a man to carry it."

Rachael Maund, the wife of Andrew Robathan, another of only 165 Tories returned, has a different angle on her political partnership. As a City fund manager she feels "very fortunate to have someone who's come out of long-term care."

Labour wives tell similar stories. When former Home Secretary Michael Howard's new paper bleated at a party soon after the election, he had no idea how to turn it off. "Didn't you have one when you were a minister?" asked his companion. "Yes," replied the Shadow Foreign Secretary, "but I had a man to carry it."

Labour wives are discovering that they have their own problems now that their husbands are in office. Because their seats tend to be concentrated in the North of England and Scotland and Wales, they often see their spouses only at weekends. Maureen Ingram, whose husband Adam is now Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, lives near Glasgow. "Sometimes when they come back on a Friday and you've been running the show all week, they take charge and you have to bite your tongue," she says. Like other

Silent, supportive and virtually invisible — except at election time. Who'd be a politician's partner? **Mary Ann Sieghart** reports

It's possible to get very wrapped up in your husband's career". But political wives who have careers of their own still have to make big compromises. For being an MP, and still more so a minister, takes precedence over everything else, as Rachael discovered when her wife Kit was due, and the Tory Government was hanging on by a Rizla-thin majority.

"There was a real issue about what would happen if Kit was born during the week. Luckily he came on a Friday. But I'd been pretty angry if I'd been lying in agony and Andrew had to go and vote. It would have made a bit of a mockery of life, wouldn't it?" Rachael has had to adjust to the lack of interest in her own career. "There is the general assumption that whatever you're doing in your career comes second to your duties as an MP's wife."

Even more modern than the high-flying wife is the supportive husband. Or in the case of Phil Cole, "partner, secretary, skivvy and sex slave", as he describes his job. Cole, the long-time partner of Caroline Flint, newly elected Labour MP for Don

Valley, has given up his associate directorship in a PR company to work for her at Westminster. The company car has gone, and the pay cut "has been a shock to my bank manager". Even his skills need brushing up. "Caroline thinks my filing is crap, and she's right." But he's happy with the arrangement. "It fulfills my ambition to help her politically. I can enjoy it without having tremendous status."

At least male political partners don't suffer from the Hillary Clinton syndrome: having to exaggerate their domesticity to make their lives seem less threatening to the general public. Hillary swapped cookie recipes during her husband's first presidential campaign, while Cherie Blair, who has a first-class degree and a career at the Bar,

guest-edited *Prima* magazine. Some working wives feel let down by these compromises. Rachael Maund, for instance, says: "At the end of the day, Cherie Blair dropped everything to trapeze round after her husband during the election campaign. She was never even allowed to open her mouth. What's the reason for

TOMORROW

"We are loyal to each other in the fullest sense of the word": Dorian Jabri, partner of Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, talks for the first time about their private and political partnership

that, other than to look decorative?" Her ministerial wife is Gillian Clarke, Ken's wife, who makes no effort to look other than dowdy. "It's quite concerning," says Rachael, "that the British electorate can't accept a political leader with a working wife who doesn't look glamorous."

For a woman who never used to wear make-up or worry about her hair, Cherie has had to suffer more makeovers than British Airways. But other Labour spouses have it easier. Pauline Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister's wife, has been allowed to keep her own brassy look and does not have to hold hands like the Blairs.

Such public displays of affection make Gail Lilley's flesh crawl. During the Tory leadership election, she recalls: "Every time we were due on a photo call it was, 'Will you hold hands?' and I thought, 'What? I don't hold hands with my husband in public!' Cherie Blair started this. It's all her fault."

For both Gail and Sandra Howard, wife of Michael Howard, the Tory leadership election — what Gail refers to as "that little horror" — raised the possibility of playing opposite Cherie Blair as Shadow First Lady. For Sandra, "normal life seemed to be put on hold, really". She did not dare imagine what it would be like if Michael were chosen. Gail, however, admits she was worried that Peter might win. "I had a huge sense of humour failure when I thought of ramifications."

Labour wives are discovering that they have their own problems now that their husbands are in office. Because their seats tend to be concentrated in the North of England and Scotland and Wales, they often see their spouses only at weekends. Maureen Ingram, whose husband Adam is now Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, lives near Glasgow.

"Sometimes when they come back on a Friday and you've been running the show all week, they take charge and you have to bite your tongue," she says. Like other

new ministers' spouses, Maureen is having to adjust. "I see less of him now. He used to be home on Thursday evenings, now he's not back till Friday afternoon. Then he does his boxes at the weekend and the phone's always ringing. It's only been ten weeks but it feels like ten years."

Red boxes — which contain work for ministers to do at home — are the bane of the spouse's life. Gail Lilley remembers five of them arriving on their first Bank Holiday together after Peter became a minister. One wife of a new senior Cabinet minister says that waking up to discover that your husband has been appointed to government ought to be classed for stressfulness alongside moving house, bereavement and divorce.

Another new minister found that, initially, his young children loved opening the boxes. Now, when he says he can't play football with them because he has too much work, they say: "Why can't Tony Blair do his own boxes?"

David Mills, husband of Tessa Jowell, Minister of State at the Department of Health, says: "They're an absolute bloody nuisance. She gets up at 5.30 each morning to do her boxes. It's ruining my sleep pattern." One solution to the time problem is to enter the House yourself. That is what Julie Kirkbride has done. Newly married to Andrew MacKay, Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, she is now Conservative MP for Bromsgrove. "Being at the House of Commons makes it more convenient because I see more of him. Before, I was up in Bromsgrove and he was down at Westminster."

In becoming an MP, Julie has managed to avoid the biggest irritation, being treated as an appendage. Some wives refused to be interviewed for this piece for that very reason. Newly married to Rachael Maund, who enjoys her life, admits: "I got fed up with the back teeth with people asking, 'What's it like being an MP's wife?' I used to say, 'Why don't you ask what's it like being an investment manager's husband?'" Indeed.

• **Mary Ann Sieghart** is an assistant editor of The Times

This is an edited version of an article in next month's *Vogue*

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ONE COUPON ADMITS UP TO ADULTS HALF PRICE

Time to stop the Third World debt treadmill

Gordon Brown must take a lead at the IMF, says James Callaghan

This week the finance ministers of the world are meeting in Hong Kong under the aegis of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, arrives there tomorrow.

The occasion will be highly symbolic. It will remind China that the world expects her to keep to her undertakings that the recent handover will not lead to any weakening of Hong Kong's present financial integration into the rest of the world.

But much more than symbolism will be at stake. The finance ministers will also need to decide how to give practical effect to the pledges made by their heads of government in Denver last June that there would be "new, concrete action" to support Africa in overcoming the abject poverty and near economic collapse of some of the sub-Saharan countries.

Consider the grim facts. The World Bank estimates that in 1993, no fewer than 250 million people were existing on less than a dollar (65p) a day. In Mozambique, weekly average earnings were as low as £1.15. Is it any wonder that the average Mozambican can expect death to come when they are no more than 47 years old?

There is no single cause for abject poverty in sub-Saharan. The World Bank lists among others: inadequate access to land and capital, poor access to credit, poor access to proper health and education, bad policies, excess arms purchases, and so on. And there is one other vital cause - debt - in which these countries are deeply mired in an impossible overhang.

Mozambique, for example, spends 8 per cent of its annual budget on education, and 3 per cent on health, but as much as 33 per cent on debt repayments to the West. It is on these points that the finance ministers' meeting in Hong Kong can make a breakthrough by recognising publicly that much of this debt will never be repaid, and that some of the countries concerned will never be able to hoist themselves up by their own bootstraps without further assistance. If they would say that, it would be a start in redeeming the Denver pledge made by the heads of government.

And it would be a concession to reality. It is little short of folly that every year our Parliament votes funds for the purpose of developing sub-Saharan's economic and social structure, and every year the recipients use equivalent funds to pay the interest owed to their debtors. In Mozambique, the equivalent of 90 per cent of each year's financial aid from the West has until recently been devoted to debt repayment, though this has now been reduced to 67 per cent. In Zambia, the figure is

Much more than symbolism will be at stake

United States and Japan have been dragging their feet over implementing the new HIPC initiative. They will need a lot of shifting. Yet a few weeks ago the IMF, with considerable help from Japan, could mobilise \$16.7 billion to stabilise the currency problems of Thailand and South East Asia, while a third of that sum could do much to redeem the poor of Africa and Latin America from debt. This could be the "new, concrete action" promised at Denver.

Church leaders have reminded us that Britain did not hesitate to give a lead to the world in the 19th century when we led the abolition of slavery - against the consensus of our economic competitors. How much would it cost Britain today to give a lead to other countries by offering bilateral relief to the poorest countries now indebted to our Export Credit Guarantees Development? It is too much for us bilaterally and the world as a whole to lift the slavery of debt from the shoulders of the world's poorest? A decision by the nations in Hong Kong to do this in the year 2000 would give us all a genuine reason to celebrate the new millennium.

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff was Prime Minister, 1976-79, and was among the first to raise the issue of Third World debt.

New Penny

AS Ian McEwan celebrates his secret second marriage, his former wife is forging her own literary career - spurred on, she claims, by financial necessity.

Penny Allen is crafting a series of literary works, several of which paint an unflattering portrait of her husband's behaviour, the first of which will be out in November.

The celebrated author and his wife appeared to lead a blissful life in their Oxford home, raising four children during their 21 years

together (14 as man as wife), but in 1995 Ms Allen petitioned for divorce on the grounds of McEwan's unreasonable behaviour. They live separately in Oxford, to be near their two school-age children.

The short stories, says Miss Allen, address a range of troubling issues, supposedly drawn from her "well of experience". One revolves around a hospital delivery room, where a man brings a former lover to watch his wife give birth, while another concerns a man's extravagant sexual appetites.

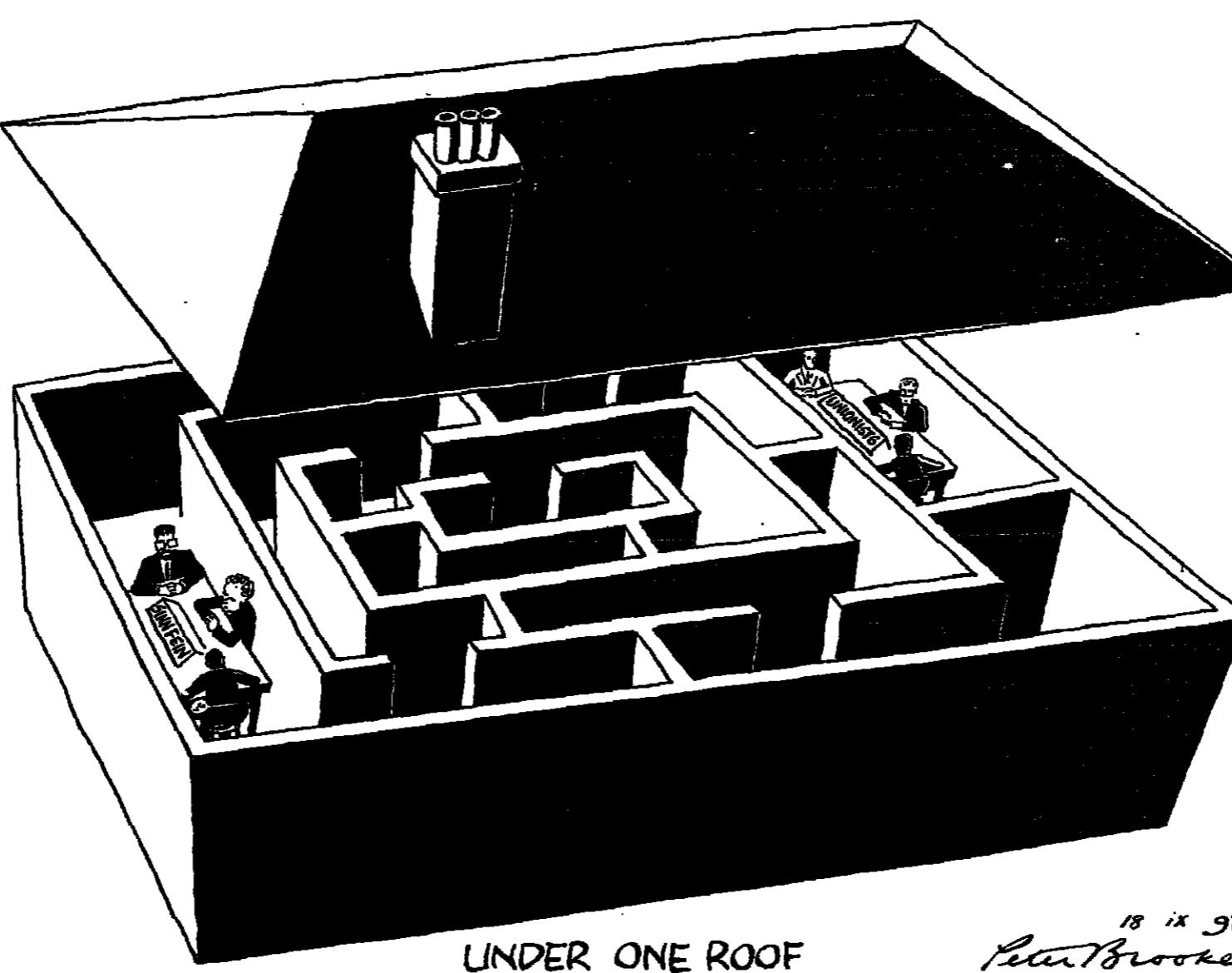
Ms Allen, a meditation expert, claims she has taken up her pen out of need. "When you are living in Oxford, with two children, on little money, you have to turn your mind to these things."

She says the terms of her divorce settlement leave her no choice but to stay in Oxford. "I want to be near the children, so I have to stay in Oxford even though it is prohibitively expensive to live there."

Friends of McEwan insist that he is a generous character who has done everything to provide for his children. His office was discreet, saying Ms Allen's observations were a "purely personal matter".



Penny Allen: telling all



UNDER ONE ROOF

Peter Brookes

A system in the dock

The Shirley Porter case is gravely prejudiced even before it comes to court

It is not difficult to get justice for someone who is already a well-loved public figure. It is harder for someone who is unpopular and has been subject to years of press and political attacks. On October 2, which is the day of the Jewish New Year, the hearing of what can be called the Shirley Porter case will begin in the Divisional Court. The central question will be whether she and her fellow respondents have so far been given a fair trial.

The original events occurred in 1986. The subsequent allegation was that the housing policies in Westminster amounted to illegal gerrymandering. There were originally ten respondents. All of them have suffered great damage to their lives. Two of them have been totally destroyed; one who might have been exonerated, committed suicide, the other - a council official of medium rank - has had a profound nervous breakdown and is in hospital.

The central respondent is Dame Shirley Porter, formerly leader of Westminster City Council, and once the most prominent Conservative in London. I had dealings with her on behalf of the Arts Council over Westminster's arts funding; in the Britain of the 1980s she was one of the three or four council leaders most enthusiastic for the arts. She was both a dominant personality and a self-publicist. I had no doubt she was effective, and the arts benefited.

No one questions that Shirley Porter has been the object of prejudice. She is Jewish, and subliminal anti-Semitism is part of British culture, on the Left as well as on the Right. Another Jewish woman in politics has been Edwina Currie; I think both women have been regarded by some people as "pushy Jewish ladies with big mouths". Dame Shirley Porter is a fighter, seen as a disciple and to some extent a lesser version of Margaret Thatcher. She suffered from the anti-Thatcher backlash. She was the daughter of Jack Cohen, the founder of Tesco, so she also suffers from the envy that attaches to great wealth. She was the woman who, more than anyone else, made Westminster the flagship of Conservative local government: the Labour Party regarded her as a legitimate target, though some of its attacks were wildly inaccurate.

Press and television have been very interested in the case, and have scarcely tried to be impartial. Many programmes and articles have sum-

ply seen Dame Shirley as a villainess, neglecting an open-minded examination of the case for the Westminster housing policy. The *Evening Standard* has been largely hostile; as has BBC Television, going back to an early *Panorama* exposé, which relied on local objectors who were Dame Shirley's political opponents. The media added to the prejudice.

The hearing in the Divisional Court is itself a peculiar one. It is an appeal by five of the remaining six of the respondents - the sixth being too ill to join - "to quash the decision of the auditor, at the audits of accounts of Westminster City

Council for 1987-88 to 1994-95 to certify that the sum of £31,677,044 is due from the appellants". Although the hearing takes the form of an appeal, this is in fact the first judicial hearing. The auditor is John Magill; though a senior partner of Deloitte & Touche, the City accountancy firm, he has no legal training or qualification. The present appeal is against his findings based on his inquiry.

The procedure Mr Magill followed did have statutory authority under the Local Government Finance Act 1982, though a fairer alternative procedure is available under that Act. In the recent third report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, paragraph 215, Lord Nolan commented: "We also received widespread criticism of the procedure followed in certain surcharge cases under which the auditor formulates and prosecutes the case, judges guilt or innocence, and determines the penalty on the basis of his own calculations of financial loss. We can say immediately that we can see no justification for that at all." Even the Audit Commission itself accepts that "in all cases the auditor should make a case to the court", rather than make the adjudication himself. This type of procedure has also been rejected for courts martial by the European Court of Human Rights.

The issue is one of separation of function. Mr Magill acted as investigator, with powers to compel evidence; as jury, in that he decided guilt or innocence; and as judge, in that he presided over the proceedings and decided the penalty. The only role he did not fill was that of defendant. He himself observed that his functions were "judicial" or "quasi-judicial", though he may not have behaved judicially. This extreme confusion of functions is plainly contrary to natural justice; it was made far worse by Mr Magill's prejudicial use of publicity.

The alleged loss of £31 million

seems more of a sighting shot than a realistic estimate. Councils normally improve their revenue by the sale of council houses at a discount, a policy widely adopted and unquestionably lawful; the additional cost of rehousing

was not estimated to exceed £1.5 million a year. The programme was, in fact, a failure, and rather few houses were sold; the net financial difference, plus or minus, is more likely to have been measured in hundreds of thousands of pounds than in millions, let alone tens of millions. The cost of the inquiry to date has been about £3 million; if the object was to save public money, it has not been achieved.

On January 13, 1994, Mr Magill did something which seems to be unprecedented, and is open to serious objection. He held a televised press conference to issue his preliminary report. At that point he had only completed his initial inquiry; he had not heard the defence submissions in answer to the charges he formulated. He did not know what the defence would say. Most of the respondents had had no legal representation during his investigation. Yet his findings were damning; because he called the press and television conference, they were very widely reported.

He read the most prejudicial paragraph straight to camera: "My provisional view is that the council was engaged in gerrymandering, which I am minded to find is a disgraceful and improper purpose, and not a purpose for which a local

council or a civil servant could be employed in any quasi-judicial capacity."

The Divisional Court comes in a case distorted by an almost unique degree of prejudice. It will remember that a wholly unjust procedure cannot produce a reliably just result.

authority may act." Is this Detective Inspector Magill, Prosecuting Counsel Magill, Foreman of the Jury Magill, or Judge Magill speaking?

How unsatisfactory these highly publicised provisional findings were is demonstrated by something Mr Magill said later: "I shall consider any representations which are made to me before making any findings of fact, before reaching any final views, and before making any decision in consequence of this objection." If he had been a lawyer, Mr Magill would have realised that his preliminary findings, couched in such dramatic terms, totally prejudiced the impartiality of his "final views". It is a case of execution first, defence later.

Worse than that, Section 30 of the 1982 Act of which Mr Magill was aware, made it a criminal offence for him, or anyone else, to reveal any information obtained by his procedures under the Act that provision is intended to prevent the very prejudice which Mr Magill created. On indictment such a breach of confidentiality is punishable by "imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years". Anyone reading his provisional findings would have formed a painfully clear view of the evidence as Mr Magill saw it. Yet Mr Magill blandly observes that "there is nothing in this statement which involves the disclosure of information obtained in the course of my audit". It is amazing that anyone, however unfamiliar with the law, could have come to that conclusion.

The merits of the original policy, even its legality, remain open to debate, though it was far from unique to Westminster: the alleged cost seems fanciful but is a legitimate matter for discussion. Shirley Porter will never be a popular woman. But the ten respondents have suffered a wholly unjust form of adjudication, now rightly repudiated by the European Court of Human Rights, the Audit Commission and Lord Nolan. One of the respondents killed himself because of it, one was driven mad, all have been gravely damaged. John Magill chose the more egotistical procedure under the 1982 Act and compounded its inherent injustice by his resort to sensational publicity. He should never again be employed in any quasi-judicial capacity.

The Divisional Court comes in a case distorted by an almost unique degree of prejudice. It will remember that a wholly unjust procedure cannot produce a reliably just result.

Labour's welfare muddle

Rivalry and reform

don't mix, says

Iain Duncan Smith

At last week's TUC conference the Prime Minister once again talked of his "radical modern vision" for reforming Britain. Before the election Mr Blair made it clear that welfare reform was a key objective for new Labour and once in power he appointed Frank Field as the Minister of State for Welfare Reform. Yet almost five months has passed, and far from there being a clear process of reform, there is confusion in all aspects of the Government's social security review.

For example, Gordon Brown has taken upon himself the responsibility for analysing the prospect of integrating tax and benefits from the DSS, by establishing a separate taskforce run by Martin Taylor. The Chancellor of the Exchequer believes "many of the barriers to integration in the past - both administrative and ideological - have gone".

Yet Harriet Harman, the Secretary of State for Social Security, has always made it clear that she has ideological objections to such a sweeping reform because of the way the benefit is delivered, namely to the wage-earner through PAYE. This means that, for instance, non-working women would not receive benefits directly, but through their husbands' wage packets. For Ms Harman such a reform would be regressive. But it is becoming more and more difficult to know where she stands. Before the election she attacked Conservative plans to reduce benefit to lone mothers. Yet within two months of taking office she implemented them.

Furthermore, Mr Field has said he is against merging tax and benefits, which is the Chancellor's "Holy Grail". He wants to eliminate means-testing, which he has described as "the enemy within the welfare state". Having been asked by the Prime Minister to produce a reform package, he now finds himself undermined by the Chancellor's proposals and his Secretary of State's subversion to the Treasury.

Surely, with Mr Field's track record on welfare reform, which is the reason for his appointment, one might expect all these reviews to be overseen by him and then by the Secretary of State. Yet this is not the case. Furthermore, it is now apparent that the blueprint Mr Field has produced has gone straight to the Prime Minister.

This lack of co-ordination between the Secretary of State and her Minister of State was underlined during the summer recess, when Mr Field spoke about devolving social security budgets and regionalising benefit payments. When these proposals were criticised by some Labour MPs, Ms Harman made no comment in support of her minister or his proposals.

Then there is the question of pension reform, over which ministers have got themselves in another mess. Mr Field's stakeholder scheme, praised by the Prime Minister, has been dealt a body blow by the Chancellor. Mr Brown's decision to abolish tax relief on dividends for pension funds has strengthened Serps, the state earnings-related pension scheme. Yet Mr Field's well-publicised scheme requires the abolition of Serps. Given that fact, it is not surprising that John Denham, an Under-Secretary at the DSS, has been running this area of reform and that Mr Field has not been allowed to answer questions on pension reform on the floor of the Commons.

During the summer there were press reports that civil servants had been asked to prepare a paper on how the link between pensions and earnings could be restored. This enabled Barbara Castle, a champion of pensioners, to look pleased. However, another Social Security Minister, Baroness Hollis of Heigham, denied that this was even an option.

The confusion over welfare policies was compounded as Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, continued his search for a proper job during the summer and removed another potential responsibility from the DSS, by launching a new social exclusion unit which will apparently work to tackle poverty. It is unclear what this unit will actually do, but what is clear is that Labour's official welfare team will not be responsible, as it will be run from the Cabinet Office.

Labour seems to be pulling in different directions over welfare reform, from greater compulsion in pension contributions to ending or keeping means-testing. The disquiet is not engineered by the Opposition, and is not only felt at the grass roots, but at the very top of the parliamentary party. Reforming the welfare state and society was much talked about by Tony Blair before the election, but it is becoming increasingly unclear what his vision is, and who will be responsible for implementing it. While it is wise to spread responsibilities, it is wrong to scatter them; such a process can lead only to confusion. The present confusion reveals the absence of a "radical modern vision". What we have instead is the product of competing ministerial ambitions. Too many cooks is a recipe for chaos.

The author is Shadow Secretary of State for Social Security.



help and advise than some other members of the Royal Family."

Good heavens

God: the theme park. In America, naturally, they will celebrate the 2,000th birthday of Jesus by building the world's first biblical theme park. The £200 million project - rivaling our Millennium Dome - will boast a mechanised cast; a robotic Christ will walk on water and android Disciples will talk to each other at the Last Supper.

And in a tribute to Darwinism, this man-made edifice at Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, will be called God's Wonderful World. Uh oh.

• SO grand, these Labour types. Lord Irwin of Lairg, Lord Chancellor, often eats oranges at his desk. So as not to soil his delicate hands, he asks a civil servant to peel them.

• White mischief

AMONG those who believed that Black Wednesday was in fact White Wednesday include even members of that family of rampaging Europhiliacs, the Garel-Jones. It transpires that Lord G. J., who pushed Maastricht through, has interesting observations five years on from the day the pound crashed out of the ERM. "One of my sons in the City seems to have done quite well out of Black Wednesday," says the lugubrious lord. "I asked him if patriotism had sort of crept into his thoughts." He will tell the forthcoming Channel 4 programme *Bye Bye Blues*. His son's response, it seems, was more pragmatic than principled.

Acting up

AN odd complaint. Patsy Kensit.



the comely wife of the Oasis musician Liam Gallagher, claims she is tired of her image as a "rocker's babe", which has stunted her career: "It's a real pity because I want to act. I haven't been on stage since I was 16," says Mrs Gallagher, whose career started promisingly in *Absolute Beginners*. A loss, indeed. But Patsy surely might be taken a little more seriously as an actress and a little less seriously as a rock chick if she were not already well into her third rock-star marriage - at the grand old age of 29.

P.H.S.

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BRIGHT WEDNESDAY

History lessons Blair must not be allowed to forget

It is fitting that the best combination of economic figures seen in Britain for more than two decades should have been published on the fifth anniversary of Black Wednesday. The pound's humiliating expulsion from the European exchange-rate mechanism in September 1992 destroyed the authority of John Major's Government and may have doomed his party, but for the British people it turned out to be an unqualified boon.

By unshackling the pound from the German mark and thereby releasing the British Government from the need to follow economic policies made in Frankfurt, the events of Black Wednesday were directly responsible for the strong economic growth and the steady reduction in unemployment which started within months of Britain's withdrawal from the ERM. In the same five years, Germany and France sank ever deeper into the morass of mass unemployment. This is a history lesson which the Labour Government must not be allowed to forget.

In a timely reminder of the benefits of the currency flexibility restored on Black Wednesday, the Office for National Statistics yesterday announced another large reduction in unemployment. The official jobless count now stands at just 5.3 per cent of the workforce, the lowest level in 17 years. And even allowing for the many changes in benefits, retirement arrangements and part-time working, independent authorities, ranging from the Bank of England to the International Monetary Fund and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, concur that unemployment is now less of a problem in Britain than in any other major Western economy with the exception of the United States.

More remarkably still, the new British jobs have not been bought at the cost of high inflation, unbalanced trade or permanent currency devaluation. Mr Major grimly prophesied on the eve of Black Wednesday that a floating pound would produce "rising prices, rising wages, rising inflation and a long-term deterioration in Britain's compet-

itiveness". None of this has come to pass. Inflation remains little higher than in Germany and France, despite the fact that unemployment there is almost double the British level. Britain's exports and imports are in balance, despite the fact that we are enjoying a consumer boom, while Europe remains in recession. Even the pound, after helping to revive the economy by floating downwards, has now regained its earlier strength against the mark and French franc.

Yet despite such apparently conclusive demonstrations of the benefits of monetary independence, there are powerful voices in the business community and in all of the major political parties demanding that the power over Britain's money should again be transferred to Frankfurt and that sterling should again be shackled, this time to the euro instead of the mark. The calls for Britain to rejoin the ERM, or even to commit itself to future membership of the European monetary union, may at present be scarcely audible. But with Britain preparing to take over the EU presidency, the murmurs from Euro-enthusiastic business, diplomats and ministers will turn into loud insistence that only by committing himself to EMU can Tony Blair play a constructive part in the single currency debate.

With history and economics so clearly ranged against them, the advocates of a European single currency will resort to political claims. Mr Blair will be told that by staying out of EMU he will lock Britain out of the leadership of Europe; and that by promising to join EMU he could put Britain on a par with Germany and France and raise himself from mere national politician to statesman on the European stage. When he hears such talk of "slow lanes" and "second-class" Euro-citizenship, Mr Blair should recall another of Mr Major's prophecies just before Black Wednesday. To take the pound out of the ERM, the former Prime Minister said, would be "to accept that Britain will be forever second-rate in Europe". Mr Blair should look at the economic figures and reflect on the fickleness of political fate.

HIT AND MISS

Air traffic control is an accident waiting to happen

The mid-air collision of two German and American military aircraft hundreds of miles off the coast of Angola with the loss of all on board is more than a human tragedy. It is a deadly indictment of the chaotic state of air traffic control over the entire African continent, and a warning that the present method of regulating air traffic around the globe is seriously inadequate.

The chances of two planes hitting each other over a remote part of the South Atlantic would seem infinitesimal. It is unclear why the planes were on the same flight path, why they had no warning of the other's approach and why ground controllers have no record of the crash. What is quite clear, however, is that the deficiencies of communications systems in most of Africa mean that pilots now fly over the continent virtually blind. Few air controllers have the right equipment, speak passable English or monitor traffic responsibly. Overflying charges are pocketed by corrupt governments and not spent on computers and radar. In July alone, Angolan air traffic control reported 12 near misses; the figure for Chad was 16. South African Airways is even considering a return to the longer route to Europe around West Africa that it was obliged to fly during sanctions. Air safety will be an urgent issue at the regional meeting in Ghana this week of the International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations.

Africa is the only continent causing concern. In the past few weeks there have been two extremely serious near misses over Heathrow; in one, the planes missed each other by some 300ft, or less than a second's flying time. Figures show that the skies over Western Europe are becoming ever more crowded: air controllers are reporting intolerable levels of stress with virtually no dip in peak traffic periods. World forecasts point to

a 6.6 per cent growth in air traffic in the next four years, with the number of international and domestic scheduled passengers rising to 1.8 billion by 2001.

Luckily, there has not been a corresponding rise in collisions or near misses. But American air controllers are sufficiently alarmed that they have launched an experiment to see whether there are safer ways of directing planes than through narrow and carefully regulated corridors. Pilots, relying on board navigation and the satellite-directed Global Positioning System, set their own course and simply keep ground control informed, rather than relying on ground control to maintain safe separation. In future, most planes will be equipped with the Future Air Navigation System, already in use in Australasia, which will give pilots freedom to plot their course.

Until then, air safety could be improved in several ways. The first obvious change is to widen the corridors and open up vast areas still reserved for military traffic. Fighter jets must also be banned from all civilian routes: some 25 per cent of all near misses last year involved military aircraft, and yesterday two American jets on routine training flights collided off the coast of New Jersey. Petty chauvinist insistence, especially in Europe, on national control of all national airspace should give way to more pooling and cooperative arrangements, as happens in much of Northern Europe where traffic is controlled from one centre in Maastricht. And the rush of all pilots to the same narrow altitude band over the Atlantic where they hope to pick up the best winds and save fuel and time should be more strictly regulated.

Airlines have done much to assure passengers that their planes are safe; much more must be done if that assurance is to extend to the skies as well.

ART SENSATION

Young British artists are traditionally challenging tradition

The purpose of any new art movement — in so far as it can be said to have a purpose — is to unsettle and challenge. Boldness and confrontation are the essence of the avant-garde. It accosts its viewers with the radical and inflammatory — and for that reason is often difficult to understand. Not since the arrival of the Pop generation in Britain has tradition been more flagrantly flouted than by today's young British artists whose work, as it has been collected and promoted by Charles Saatchi, is now on show at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Flaunting its ability to spark controversy, this show has been given the provocative title *Sensation*. And this is exactly what it has caused. Over the past weeks, attempts to ban the showing of Marcus Harvey's *Myra* — a representation of a notorious Myra Hindley photograph painted in children's handprints — have rampaged hysterically through the media. Last week the distinguished sculptor Michael Sandle resigned in protest and other academics have threatened to follow.

The visitor, however, should keep an open mind. Some of the exhibits in this show may seem vapid or imitative — more reliant on shock and tacky commercialism than

the depth of feeling and philosophy which informs the best art. But many of the pieces focus an unflinching lens on a contemporary world of violence and cruelty, depravity and despair, boredom and waste. Their sharp images cut a direct path to the emotions.

Nor is the work on display limited to the brutal culture of a disillusioned generation. Charles Saatchi has a broadly catholic taste. His collection ranges from the severe minimalist abstraction of Jason Martin and Simon Callery to the abrupt explicitness of Ron Mueck's oedipal *Dead Dad*. It extends from the figurative traditions of Jenny Saville's painterly female nudes, to the monumentality of Rachel Whiteread's unornamented sculptures.

Displayed within the context of the academy's Georgian halls, these works acquire a paradoxically historic resonance. New British artists forge their links with tradition even as they strive to break them. The work of the contemporary era may be brazen, cheeky, ironic and rude; it may challenge preconceptions of what constitutes art. This is, after all, what the avant-garde has always meant. The new British contemporaries have earned their place in the academy's annals.

The visitor, however, should keep an open mind. Some of the exhibits in this show may seem vapid or imitative — more reliant on shock and tacky commercialism than

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Opportunities and dangers in the 'new voice' for Wales

From Mr Siân Cowell

Sir, Now is the time for all who live in Wales to lay aside doubts and reservations and come out and vote resolutely "yes" for a Welsh assembly.

Margaret Thatcher used to say people should stand on their own feet. And prominent Conservatives are taking her at her word. Sir Wyn Roberts, Conservative MP for Conwy from 1970 until the last election, is actually calling for an assembly with stronger powers. Others, including Viscount St Davids, are joining their countrymen in Labour, the Liberal Democrats and Plaid Cymru in calling for a strong "yes" vote.

Scotland has voted overwhelmingly "yes". Soon London will be voting for its own regional government. The English regions may well follow the London lead. Can we in Wales afford to be left behind?

The choice is not between an assembly for Wales and the status quo. The status quo has changed irrevocably with the Scottish "yes". Tony Blair is right. Things can no longer stay as they are. The choice on September 18 is quite simply a choice between a new voice for Wales and being left out in the cold.

The process of devolution began long ago, with the creation of the Welsh Board of Education in 1907. It

continued with the appointment of the first Welsh Secretary in 1964 and the creation of the Welsh Office in 1965. A Welsh Government already exists. A Welsh assembly is simply another step in the process.

A Welsh assembly will not create a new bureaucracy. The bureaucracy is already there. But a "yes" vote will ensure this bureaucracy is democratically accountable to us who live in Wales. This happens everywhere else in Europe. Why not in Wales?

Yours faithfully,
SION COWELL
(Press Officer, Yes for Wales — Anglesey Campaign),
Plas Maelog, Beaumaris, Anglesey.
September 15.

From Lord Renton

Sir, William Rees-Mogg writes a more than usually woeful piece today ("Revenge of the Celtic fringe", September 15), prophesying that devolution and the European movement between them may be the end of the English nation.

Has he ever paused to think that if such an unlikely event were ever to happen, his own constant and acerbic anti-Europeanism would be a contributory cause?

The Scots are much less frightened

of Europe than the English. The "auld alliance" may have something to do with this, but more important is their knowledge of how small countries such as Ireland have prospered in the European Union. They have found the bitter Euroscepticism of so many Tories in the last election unreal, and they threw out our remaining MPs.

If we are to have a reasonable prospect of holding together a devolved Britain, it must be on the basis of English, Scots, Welsh and Ulstermen working together, with our partners on the Continent, to achieve an economic and monetary union that respects nations but provides sufficient strength to withstand global competition in the next century. A hard but impossible objective.

This is the aim of the French and Spanish, both old nations. It must be the aim of England and Scotland as well.

Yours truly,
TIM RENTON,
House of Lords.
September 15.

From Mr Keith Brighouse

Sir, William Rees-Mogg is right to

point out the dangers to England from a Celtic-dominated Government that is clearly shooting from the hip.

With the Scots and the Welsh enthusiastically defining themselves, the English are being defined by default.

Perhaps it is time for the English to stop seeing themselves as British and reaffirm their own national identity.

Those people in England who believe in the United Kingdom should accept the battle to keep Britain together is lost and should now fight to stop the regionalisation of England.

This carving-up of England will not mean more democracy, as the Government would have us believe, but will neuter English identity. Not only will the English have to pay for unnecessary new bureaucracies, they will be powerless to object to subsidising the collectivisation of Scotland and Wales.

Given the vagaries of this Government in regard to a future constitutional settlement and its reluctance to accept that the English have a vital interest in any changes, an independent England doesn't sound a bad idea.

Sincerely,
KEITH BRIGHOUSE,
21 Gaiskell House,
Victoria Avenue, E6.

From Mr Andrew Lambert

Sir, Wales is at present dysfunctional. There is an unconscrected marriage

between the Establishment (the "Taffia") and the Welsh Office; initiatives are strangled at birth; and Europe's oldest living language faces a slow death.

To avoid obliteration Wales must follow Scotland's example.

Yours in desperation,
ANDREW LAMBERT,
Flat 19, Mason's Yard,
St James's, SW1.
September 17.

From Mr Ray Kingdom

Sir, I am Welsh and live in Cardiff, and thus feel obliged to vote in favour of a Welsh assembly. This obligation hangs heaviest over us non-Welsh speakers; after all, here is a chance to prove our "Welshness". There is no logic in this just blind nationalistic

between the Establishment (the "Taffia") and the Welsh Office; initiatives are strangled at birth; and Europe's oldest living language faces a slow death.

To avoid obliteration Wales must follow Scotland's example.

Yours faithfully,
ARNOLD VAN PRAAG,
Dove Cottage,
Weston Colville, Cambridge.
September 13.

Blood and guts at Academy show

From Mr Arnold van Praag

Sir, Simon Jenkins in "The art of sensationalism" (September 13) and your other reports on the Royal Academy's chamber of horrors exhibition rise to the bait, as required.

No, this show does not anticipate criticism, as you report (September 11); it courts it. That is what it is for.

Surely it is a little late for those jaded Dadaists to continue to épater les bourgeois and for the bourgeois conveniently to oblige.

Of course it would be more interesting if the RA put on a show that was rather more up to date. In the meantime, one was always taught that the right way to deal with naughty children was to ignore them.

Yours faithfully,

ARNOLD VAN PRAAG,
Dove Cottage,
Weston Colville, Cambridge.
September 13.

From Mr Nicky Hamlyn

Sir, In ridiculing the forthcoming *Sensation* exhibition Simon Jenkins misrepresents a number of artworks, both past and present.

These "sons of Harlech" seemed very pro Welsh Assembly. No wonder; it is simply not designed for me.

Cardin

Cardiff

Cardiff has much more in common with Bristol than Bangor. The people of Cardiff are more like Liverpudlians than Llangollenites. Voting "yes" is a step away from Englishness and towards Welshness. Watch your step Cardiff!

Yours etc,

RAYMOND L. KINGDON,
77 Heathway, Cardiff.

ray@pysel.demon.co.uk

September 10.

From Mr Paul Keenan

Sir, The question asked of the Welsh in the coming referendum is the same as asking a hungry man: "Would you like to eat today?" It does not offer a menu; it does not indicate a cost, but it is designed to prompt the answer "yes" without the thought of such details.

The Government should stop stimulating Pavlovian reaction to justify its policymaking and allow discussion and a depth of thought before action.

Yours faithfully,

PAUL KEENAN,
35 Beaconsfield Road,
Claygate, Surrey.
p.keenan@which.net

September 16.

From Mrs Victoria Solt Dennis

Sir, It's time the art establishment stopped citing Goya's *Disasters of War* (as you quote a royal academician as doing in your report today) as a justification for exhibiting fantasies of blood and violence as art.

Goya took pains to make quite clear that the *Disasters* were not of his imagination but reportage: two of the most horrific scenes in the series are unequivocally captioned "I saw this" and "This too". They offer no support for the invention of gratuitous violence, as any royal academician should know perfectly well.

If artists who produce horrific fantasies for exhibition believe they can be justified on their own merits, let them do so; but they can claim no support from Goya.

Yours sincerely,

VICTORIA SOLT DENNIS,
12 Prospect Row,
Bromley, Kent.

September 11.

From Mr Alan Brison

Sir, First *Sensation* at the Royal Academy, now the National Gallery makes its contribution.

From this week, borrowed from Germany, they will be showing an oversized canvas, a self-indulgent exercise in violence and gore, the work of yet another young artist. His other predictions include the depiction of dogs copulating and defecating, children pissing and shapeless female forms where one's attention is pointed to the indentations left by tight garments.

The picture I refer to is Rembrandt's *Blinding of Samson*, dated 1636.

Yours faithfully,

ALAN BRISON,
11 Hall Park,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

September 14.

From Mrs Christine Whitaker

Sir, Every so often the emperor steps out without his clothes: it has always been a wonderful joke on humankind. At the Royal Academy the whole court are on display in their various couture underwear.

Academics should not worry: it's



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 17: The Princess Royal, President, Riding for the Disabled Association, this afternoon re-opened the office, now named "Lavinia Norfolk House", at the National Agricultural Centre, Kenilworth, and was received by the Rt Hon Sir Adam Butler (Deputy Lieutenant of Warwickshire).

Her Royal Highness, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, later visited the Coventry Carers Centre, 3 City Arcade, Coventry, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

The Princess Royal afterwards opened the new Tony Industries Limited headquarters at Kings Central, Great Kings Street, New Town, Birmingham.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 17: The Duke of

Gloucester, Commissioner, English Heritage, this morning attended a Commissioners' meeting at Fortress House, Saville Row, London W1.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, the Army Families Federation, this morning attended the Annual Conference at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and this afternoon, as Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Adjutant General's Corps, visited officers of the Corps at Worthy Down, Winchester, Hampshire.

YORK HOUSE
September 17: The Duke of Kent this morning visited Land Rover and the Central England Training and Enterprise Council, Lode Lane, Solihull, and was received by Colonel Anthony Griffiths (Deputy Lieutenant of West Midlands).

The Princess Royal afterwards opened the new Tony Industries Limited headquarters at Kings Central, Great Kings Street, New Town, Birmingham.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 17: The Duke of

Royal engagements
The Princess Royal will attend the British Equine Veterinary Association Annual International Scientific Congress, Harrogate, at 10.45, and as Patron, the Butler Trust, will visit HM Prison Ashton Grange, Ashton Richard, York, at 1.45.

The Duke of Gloucester, as President, NABC — Clubs for Young People, will visit clubs in Surrey, and will attend a reception and dinner to mark the 50th anniversary of the Society of Archivists at Guildhall, at 7.15.

The Duke of Kent, as Patron, the South Bank Foundation, will attend a reception at the Purcell Room, Festival Hall, at 6.00.

Memorial service

Mr Geoffrey Pack
A memorial service for Mr Geoffrey Pack, Editor of *Yachting Monthly*, was held yesterday at St Bride's, Fleet Street. Canon John Oates officiated. Mr Ken Pack read the lesson. Oliver Pack read *Remember* by Christina Rossetti and Sir Robin Knox-Johnston read an extract from *Yachting Monthly*. Miss Libby Purves and a group of friends and colleagues gave addresses. Mrs Pack (widow), Claudio, Theo and Tilly Pack (children) and many other family, friends and colleagues were present.

Lecture

Atlantic Council
Professor Walter Goldstein, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Conference of Atlantic Organisations and Visiting Professor at Rockefeller College, New York State University, was the guest speaker at an Atlantic Forum, Briefing arranged by the Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom, held last night at Brassey House, London, W1. Mr Alan Lee Williams, Director of the Council, was in the chair.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

Birthdays today

Lord Ackner, QC, 71; Mr Ray Alan, ventriloquist, 67; Mr Alan Headmaster, Eton College, 57; Mr Jack Cardiff, film director and cameraman, 83; Mr Niall Crowley, former chairman, Allied Irish Banks, 71; Miss Siobhan Davies, choreographer, 47; Viscount Eccles, CH, 92; Mr Robin Fleming, former chairman, Robert Fleming Holdings, 65; Sir Thomas Hetherington, QC, former Director of Public Prosecutions, 71; Sir Curtis Keeble, diplomat, 75; Dr Marjorie Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, 38; Mr Derek Pringle, cricketer, 39; Lord Rodger of Earlsferry, QC, FBA, 53; Mr Peter Shilton, footballer, 48; Mr Geoffrey V. Smith, former director, London Tourist Board, 81; Mr M. Studdart, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Sheffield Hallam University, 59; Professor Dorothy Wedderburn, former Principal, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, 72.

Kent College, Canterbury

The Autumn Term began on September 11 with the school welcoming a record 130 new pupils. An Open Morning will be held on Saturday, October 18, and term ends with the Carol Service to be held in Canterbury Cathedral at 7.30pm on December 12. The Governors have appointed Mr Andrew Wyndham Lewis as Bursar. Mr David and Mrs Gail Bunyan have been appointed House Parents of Auster House and Mr Sean Kerly, MBE, joint-the staff as Marketing Manager and with his wife Jacqui become House Parents of Jacqui House. Heads of school are Alastair Connolly and Sophie Scour. All former pupils are requested to contact the school with names and addresses to be included in the mailing for the Millennium celebrations.

DEATHS
RICHARD — On 15th September 1997 at Bute Hospital, St. Swithin's (née Harrison) and Charles, a daughter, Helena Frances Dobres, half-sister to Andrew and Gwenda, and Gwenda, a sister for Alana.

CLARKE — On September 15th, 1997, Nicola (née White) and Steven, a son of Stephan, Graham, a brother for Olivia, Sam and William.

FALLON — To Erika and Simon, on 4th September, a son, Oliver, and brother for Sebastian and half-brother to Jason, Kate, Georgia and Freddie.

FRITH — On September 16th, 1997, to Kate (née Frith) and Liam, a beautiful daughter, Megan. With love and thanks to all from John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

HARRIS — On September 15th, 1997, at Bute Hospital, St. Swithin's (née Harrison) and Charles, a daughter, Helena Frances Dobres, half-sister to Andrew and Gwenda, and Gwenda, a sister for Alana.

HUGHES — On September 14th, 1997, at Bute Hospital, St. Swithin's (née Harrison) and Charles, a daughter, Alice Mary, a sister for William and Edward.

HAWN — On September 15th, 1997, to Rachel (née Downey) and Timothy, a daughter, Alexander Lydia and half-sister to Elizabeth and Jessica.

HEATH — On 2nd September at Princess Anne Hospital, Southampton, to Kate (née Luney) and Paul, 5, a son, Oliver, and daughter, Lucy. Also, a son, and Lucy Ellen.

MCGILLUM — On August 9th, 1997, to Cathy and Keith, a daughter, Phoebe (née Clark), a son, and a sister for Frank.

MICHAEL — On September 15th, 1997, at The Portland Hospital, to Lucy and Roger, a son, Dexter Rhys, a brother for Dylan.

PALMERSON — On September 12th in Dublin to Christopher (née Palmerson) and Patrick, a son, Oliver George, another brother for Gubba, Jack and Paddy!

STURSS — On September 15th, 1997, to Catherine, and her daughter, Natasha, and Lucy Catherine, a sister for Ben.

VOICE-JOYCE — On 30th August 1997, to Fiona, and the gift of a beautiful son, Alexander Christopher.

Sergeant executed for cowardice wins justice at last

Shot hero's name put on war memorial

By ALAN HAMILTON

MORE than 80 years after he was shot as a coward on the Somme, the name of Lance-Sergeant Joseph William Stones has been added to the war memorial in his home town of Crook, Co Durham.

Crook yesterday became the first town in the country to honour a soldier executed for cowardice, after a long campaign by his descendants who believed Stones and many others like him were denied any vestige of natural justice amid the carnage and confusion of the First World War.

At a simple ceremony attended by Stones's few surviving descendants and a group of townspeople representing widespread local support for the move, the freshly chiselled name was unveiled beneath those others of the town who had died with more obvious heroism.

Last year Andrew Mackinlay, Labour MP for Thurrock, introduced a Private Member's Bill seeking a full pardon for all 307 men shot for cowardice or desertion during the Great War. The Bill failed but John Reid, Armed Forces Minister in the new Government, has promised a review. The Ministry of Defence is currently looking at the possibility of pardons, but has given a warning that after such a lapse of time the process will be complex, sensitive and very lengthy.

Stones was a small, wiry infantryman of the 19th Durham Light Infantry, married with three young children who had been fighting continuously for ten months in the trenches of the Western Front. On November 26, 1916, at the height of the Battle of the Somme, Stones and a Lieu-



Tom Stones points to the name of his great-uncle, Lance-Sergeant Stones, added more than 80 years after his death to the town war memorial at Crook

tenant Mundy climbed from their trench to go on patrol.

On the edge of the huge shell hole known as King's Crater they were ambushed by a German raiding party and Mundy was shot dead. Stones's rifle still had its leather cover over the breech and its safety catch on, so he could not immediately return fire. Instead he obeyed his officer's last command, running back to warn others while throwing his rifle across the trench to impede German progress.

As he ran he collapsed, apparently in shock. He was taken to a field hospital unable to walk or speak. Next day he was arrested and accused of "shamefully casting away his arms in the presence of the enemy". His statement to the court martial read: "A shot went off and Lieutenant Mundy fell to the bottom of the trench. He said, 'My God, I'm shot. For God's sake, sergeant, get help and tell Mr Howes'... As I turned to the Huns were stepping over Mr Mundy and I put my rifle across the trench to stop them from getting across at me so that I could get a lead

on them to warn the men."

But it did him no good. Manacled, blindfolded and tied to a post, Stones was shot by a firing squad in a farm-yard at Rollencourt on January 18, 1918. He is buried in the war cemetery at St Pol near Agincourt, but the words "killed in action" are absent from his headstone.

Tom Stones, 56, a microbiologist and the soldier's great-nephew, said yesterday: "This was a man who survived the Somme, who went over the top of the trenches numerous times and who fought with

enormous courage for his country. Will Stones was not a coward; he was a true hero. I am very proud of him and I wish with all my heart I had known him."

Had he surrendered there and then he would have survived the war, Mr Stones said. "Instead he was the brave man's course, and was taken out and shot like a rat by his own men as a result."

Of the 307 men shot in 1914-18, most are now thought to have been suffering post-traumatic stress disorder after months of battle, poor diet and foul conditions. At Stones's court martial, his platoon lieutenant reported that the young sergeant had recently been in poor health.

Mrs Olive Brown, leader of Wear Valley council, said that she had first heard of Sergeant Stones when the new Government announced in May that it would take a fresh look at cowardice cases. "We decided not to wait for an official pardon, but to honour a brave man in the most fitting way we could. We traced his family to seek their permission, only to find it was something they desperately wanted anyway."

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Cecil, Baron Burghley, statesman, Bourne, Lincolnshire, 1520; Gilbert Burnet, Bishop of Salisbury, 1689-1715; Edinburgh, 1643; Samuel Johnson, writer, critic and lexicographer, Lichfield, 1709; William Collins, landscape painter, London, 1788; Sir Owen Seaman, poet, Editor of *Punch* 1901-32, London, 1861; John George Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada 1957-63, Grey County, Ontario, 1895; Greta Garbo, actress, Stockholm, 1905.

DEATHS: Matthew Prior, poet, Wimpole, Cambridgeshire, 1721; William Hazlitt, essayist, London, 1830; John Sterling, writer, Venmar, 1844; Joseph Locke, civil engineer, Moffat, Dumfries, 1800; Dion Boucicault, dramatist and actor, New York, 1890; Armand Hippolyte Fizeau, physicist, Venteuil, 1899; Francis Herbert Bradley, philosopher, Oxford, 1924; Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations 1953-61, killed in an air crash, 1961.

Ndola, Zambia, 1961; Sean O'Casey, dramatist, Torquay, 1964; Sir John Cockcroft, physicist, Nobel laureate 1951, Cambridge, 1967; Jimi Hendrix, rock musician, London, 1970; Katherine Anne Porter, writer, 1980. *The New York Times* was first published, 1851. The Irish Home Rule Bill received Royal Assent, 1914. France abolished the guillotine, 1931.

Latest wills

Lady (Pamela Fenn) Oppenheimer, of London SW3, left estate valued at £4,414,977 net. Vera Elleen Mary Chew, of Dymock, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £1,97,855 net. She left £1,000 each to the British Heart Appeal Fund, Cheltenham, and the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Muriel Olive Squier-Perry, of Saltdean, Brighton, left estate valued at £1,79,892 net. Emeric Treitel, of London NW9, left estate valued at £1,402,002 net.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.I.M. Gordon and Miss J.R. Worsley
The engagement is announced between Rupert, younger son of Mr and Mrs Robert Stinson, and Meriel, second daughter of Sir Peter and Lady Anne Thorne.

Dr R.C.A. Clarke and Miss A.V. Williams
The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of Dr and Mrs H.J. Clarke, of Eastbourne, and Alison, daughter of Mrs Vivien Ward and step-daughter of Mr Brian Ward, of Bucklebury, Berkshire.

Mr P. Felbeck and Miss D.C.J. Rowe
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mrs Josephine Felbeck of Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, and Charlotte Jane, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Rowe, of Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

Mr W.H. Hauser and Miss M. Bullock
The engagement is announced between William, elder son of Mr and Mrs Walter Hauser, of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, and Maxine, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Tony Bullock, of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

Mr J.P. Herboldt and Dr H. Cox
The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Mr John Herboldt and the late Mrs Louise Herboldt, of Durban, South Africa, and Helen, daughter of Mr Graham Cox and Dr Jill Cox, also of Durban, South Africa.

Mr C.J. Jarrold and Miss E.R. Bowers
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Anton Jarrold, of Caisar St Edmund, Norfolk, and Elissa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Bowers, of Naperville, Chicago, USA.

Receptions

Viscount Mackintosh of Halifax
Viscount Mackintosh of Halifax was the host at a reception held yesterday at the House of Lords to mark the third anniversary of the Youth Sport Trust, to improve sporting provision for all children in the United Kingdom.

Prink Award
Miss Fleelin Benjamin, Executive Chairman of the Women of the Year Luncheon, aid of Mr Michael Opperman, of the British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing, was in the chair at the annual dinner of the 30th conference of Non-Destructive Testing, held last night at the Cheltenham Park Hotel, Cheltenham. Earlier, Dr J.M. Farley delivered the President's Honour Lecture, and Mr D.L. Cuthbertson, President of the American Society for Non-Destructive Testing, also spoke. A number of prizes and awards were presented during the evening.

Dr Louise Culham, Executive Chairman of the Women of the Year Luncheon, aid of Mr Michael Opperman, of the British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing, was in the chair at the annual dinner of the 30th conference of Non-Destructive Testing, held last night at the Cheltenham Park Hotel, Cheltenham. Earlier, Dr J.M. Farley delivered the President's Honour Lecture, and Mr D.L. Cuthbertson, President of the American Society for Non-Destructive Testing, also spoke. A number of prizes and awards were presented during the evening.

The 1996 Roy Sharpe Prize was awarded to Dr Michael Opperman, of the British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing, and Dr John Grimwade, of the University of Bristol, for their paper "A New Method for the Determination of the Strength of the Human Eye", and the John Halmshaw Award was presented to Dr G. Birt of the Institute of Art and Design, and to Mr Michael Opperman, of the British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing, for their paper "A New Method for the Determination of the Strength of the Human Eye".

The 1996 John Halmshaw Award was presented to Dr G. Birt of the Institute of Art and Design, and to Mr Michael Opperman, of the British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing, for their paper "A New Method for the Determination of the Strength of the Human Eye".

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in Blair

OBITUARIES

Aldo Rossi, Italian architect, died after a car crash on September 4 aged 66. He was born in Milan on May 3, 1931.

With Carlo Scarpa and Giancarlo Di Carlo, Aldo Rossi was one of a select group of Italian architects to have won and retained worldwide renown. His buildings are found not only in his native Milan but in Germany, The Netherlands, Japan and North America. In London he designed two buildings for Canary Wharf and, though these fell victim to the recession, he had recently been commissioned to design a third. Better known than his buildings are the coffee pots he designed for Alessi and a handsome watch with a Big Ben face.

His sudden death, at one of the most productive periods of his life, has similarities with that of Sir James Stirling; Rossi, a diabetic, died after a car crash, not from his injuries, but from medical complications.

His reputation, like that of Stirling, soared thanks to his fertility as a draughtsman and importance as a thinker. During his early years his reputation grew from his teachings and writings. Much of his early advocacy was done through magazines, notably *Casabella-continuità*.

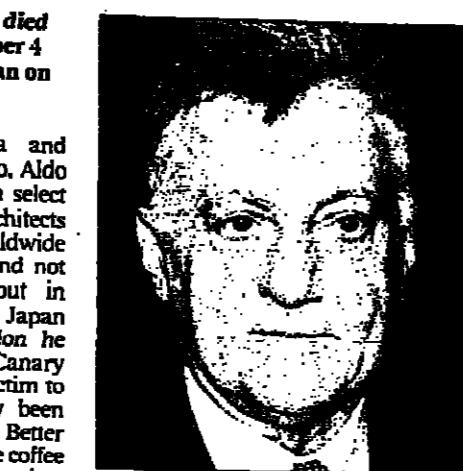
His classic book *L'Architettura della Città* (1966), translated into English only in 1982, ranks with Robert Venturi's *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture* as one of the key texts in the battle to bring a human face to International Modernism.

Rejecting the Corbusian vision of a city of towers, based on a clean sweep of everything old, Rossi emphasised that cities had evolved over time and were full of history that had to be respected; sensitive new architecture had to grow from a knowledge of the past. He showed how modern buildings could be sensitively introduced in old cities and how old buildings could be creatively re-used without resort to mere facadism.

He was a great advocate of the urban neighbourhood, exerting a strong influence on architects from Spain's Rafael Moneo to Luxembourg's Rob and Leon Krier. He consistently rejected the label of Post-Modernism. "How can I be Post-Modern when I was never a Modern?" he used to ask.

Leon Edel, biographer of Henry James, died on September 5 aged 89. He was born on September 9, 1907.

LEON EDEL pioneered the study of Henry James, about whom he wrote one of the longest of 20th-century biographies. He was a versatile student of literature, and also



Rossi's buildings have a memorable, gently monumental character. Not for him reflective glass or high-tech transparency. He liked solid walls and elemental geometry — the square, the cylinder, the pyramid and the cone: Platonic form not organic shapes. He admired Boullée and Ledoux, architects of the French Enlightenment.

Many of his buildings have towers or loggias, or are finished with cornices as powerful as those of any Medici palace in Florence. His signature was the square or nearly square window, with square panes. In recent years, he made increasing use of colour, with a palette of red, yellow and black. In an age when exposed concrete was the favoured material of many architects, he preferred red brick.

A number of acclaimed early housing schemes, notably the Gallaratese apartments in Milan, were followed by the evocative municipal cemetery at Modena. His most beautiful and poetic project was the Teatro del Mondo, a floating stage for the Venice Biennale in 1980. Painted in blue and yellow, it had the simple form of a giant octagonal pencil case.

Soon after, he completed the reconstruction of the bomb-damaged opera house in Genoa. An earlier project by Carlo Scarpa had founded. Rossi triumphantly resolved the challenge of a huge flytower, giving it a simple classic dignity echoing Genoa's famous Renaissance palaces. Inside, the flanks of the auditorium were treated as buildings around a square, with wooden balconies and galleries projecting from stone facades.

He was a great advocate of the urban neighbourhood, exerting a strong influence on architects from Spain's Rafael Moneo to Luxembourg's Rob and Leon Krier. He consistently rejected the label of Post-Modernism. "How can I be Post-Modern when I was never a Modern?" he used to ask.

wrote books about Joyce, Thoreau, "the psychological novel" and the Bloomsbury Group.

He will be remembered for his explorations into the massive accumulations of James's letters in libraries and private hands, a significant collection of which he published. But his crowning achievement is the five-volume life of James published between 1953 and 1972. In addition, he edited collections of James's stories, plays, and critical writings and provided prefaces to the many textbook editions of the novels.

He was the first biographer to set out James's life on an appropriate scale, at a time when — after a long gap — the novelist was just beginning to

be appreciated again. Edel's work grew in importance along with the modern fame of the American writer, who had lived in England for his last 40 years.

Edel's biography was based on prolonged searching in archives and the pursuit of buried details. Edel travelled to all the many places James had visited, and, having be-

gun his study in the 1930s, was able to seize fragments of the vanished past by talking to people who had known James. The resulting narrative was made vivid by its successful evocation of small moments in James's sedentary and recursive existence. Edel discovered a social James who knew and took a warm interest in many people and moved about in society.

Writing with lucid grace, Edel composed a story of James's inner development which possessed considerable drama. *Henry James* received two Pulitzer Prizes for biography, and a National Book Award. It was widely read, particularly after it was condensed into two volumes in 1977 and into one in 1985.

Edel's dedication to James began early and persisted. Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he went to McGill University, Montreal, and then to the Sorbonne, where

he wrote dissertations on James's prefaces and on the largely forgotten plays; in 1936 he had a Guggenheim fellowship to work on an edition of the plays, which was published in 1949. After a stint on newspapers, and war service in Europe with the US Army, he began teaching at New York University in 1950. He produced a James bibliography (with Dan Lawrence, 1957) and editions of James's *Tales* in 12 volumes (1962-64), some selected letters in 1956, and, finally, four volumes of them between 1974 and 1984. The Bodley Head Henry James in 11 volumes (1967-74) contained prefaces by Edel, who also edited the diary of James's sister Alice in 1965.

As his writings on James multiplied, his university named him "Henry James Professor" in 1966. He moved to the University of Hawaii in 1973 and continued his labours, editing James's criticism (1984) and notebooks (1987). He was elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters, the American Academy of Arts and Letters and became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

Edel's statue as a Jamesian

reflected his merits. But his

standing was unique for a reason not generally known: he had the field to himself for more than thirty years. No serious attempt to write a life of James could be made while Edel was at work on his, or while he was editing the letters. During the long period when he worked on these books, he alone had unrestricted use of, and the right to publish, any of the thousands of James's manuscript letters at Harvard and elsewhere.

Edel's special relationship with the James family had begun when his Sorbonne thesis came to the attention of

ALDO ROSSI



Monumental yet poetic buildings designed by Aldo Rossi in Perugia

In Japan Rossi was responsible for designing the stylish Palace Hotel in Fukuoka, a powerful contemporary interpretation of the 19th-century cast-iron buildings found in Manhattan. In Maastricht he had recently completed a new museum with a rocket-like tower that fitted as well into the Dutch landscape as any windmill.

At times his work was criticised for lack of attention to detail and an excessive concern with reducing everything to the simplest possible shape. The solitariness of his stand-alone buildings had its origin in paintings of De Chirico.

Rossi himself wrote: "I have always claimed that places are stronger than people, the fixed scene stronger than the transitory succession of events. This is the theoretical basis not of my architecture, but of architecture itself." He was respected all the more for being a tortured, self-questioning soul, constantly on the verge of giving up architecture altogether.

He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

LADY BRADMAN



Lady Bradman, wife of the Australian cricketer Sir Don Bradman, died on September 14 aged 88. She was born on June 11, 1909.

JESSIE BRADMAN was best known as the wife of Sir Don Bradman, by general consent the greatest cricketer of his time. But she was a "star", as one of their friends described her, in her own right. Bradman himself once characterised their marriage as "the greatest partnership of my life". It was true. During the "bodyline" series of 1932-33, the breakdown of his health in 1934 and again in the years of the Second World War, and during the long years of his retirement, Jessie was a constant and faithful — but not always uncritical — companion, friend and ally.

Bradman's cricketing career

is well known; what is less well known is his comment "I could not have done without her". Towards the end of her life, when she was going into hospital for one of many operations, she went out without telling him and bought two young roses, which she gave to her husband to plant in their garden in case she did not return. The gesture reveals her character: openly affectionate, thoughtful, cheerful but not at all showy.

Jessie Martha Menzies was

the eldest of three daughters born to a farming family at Glenquarry in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales.

Her grandfather had been a Scottish stonemason,

recruited by the colonial government to work on the building of Sydney University in

return for a grant of land, and her father, his son, had farmed that land. The nearest town of any size was Bowral, and it was there, in 1921, that Jessie met her future husband.

As a new pupil at Bowral school, she had to find accommodation for a year until her

sisters were old enough to

accompany her on what was then a hazardous cross-country journey. It was the Bradman family that gave her bed and board.

After a childhood and adolescent friendship at first in Bowral and then in the Sydney suburbs, where Jessie studied at a business college and went on to work at the Commonwealth Bank, the couple married at the end of April 1932. Their honeymoon was spent, unconventionally, on a cricket tour to North America. After that rather glamorous start to married life Jessie particularly enjoyed meeting many of the film stars of the day in Hollywood, the problems of the "bodyline" dispute, in terms both of the future of cricket and of Bradman's health, as well as the financial insecurity of the 1930s, began to crowd in.

In all these worries, Jessie Bradman clearly saw her role as a support to her husband and the provider of a home. She was quite content to remain in the background. Even when her husband was at the height of his fame she was reluctant to come forward, or even to give inter-

views to the press. She took, however, his knighthood, which came to him in 1949 after his retirement, fully in her stride, despite the change of status it implied for her, too.

Retirement suited Jessie. She settled down with her husband in their comfortable home in the Adelaide suburb of Kensington. There were, however, shadows. Their first child, a boy, had died in infancy in 1935; their second, John, nearly died of polio in the early 1950s and subsequently decided to change his name to avoid constant recognition as the son of his father; their daughter Shirley was born with cerebral palsy.

Jessie herself underwent heart surgery in 1974 and latterly endured a prolonged course of treatment for cancer. But, despite the shadows, the Bradman family remained closely knit: Jessie at the centre, in her home and her garden, in later years with her two granddaughters, content with the simple life into which she had been born. In truth, it was probably all she had ever wanted.

She leaves her husband, son and daughter.

LEON EDEL



Imagination of Genius, was not published until 1992. As Kaplan writes: "Edel sincerely seemed to think that what he had written was the final word. Perhaps that is why he was involved in judgments and actions that were not always kind and generous to other people. His exclusivity went far beyond the temporary priority that biographers sometimes enjoy. His hold on the materials of James biography had a damaging effect on James scholarship for many years."

Time exposes the limitations even of great achievement. James's extant letters have been said to number more than 10,000, and Nebraska University intends to publish a complete correspondence, perhaps on the Internet. Edel's gathering included only a little over 1,200, and the selection is arbitrary and often imperfectly transcribed.

The biography had its shortcomings. It could be objected that that Edel's Freudian psychologising implied, without any real basis, that James had been oppressed by a sibling rivalry with his brother William. In treating James's sexuality, Edel was timid or rash by turns. At first he postulated a long celibacy for James, then decided, without proof, that the aged James released his longings in relations with younger men.

The Edel biography is, too,

peculiarly barren of a sense of political and social history. Its charming vignettes of James at numerous moments have seemed focused on the trivial, whereas the verdict of more recent interpreters is that James took a great interest in social and economic events.

Edel was three times married and twice divorced. He is survived by his third wife Marjorie. There were no children.

PERSONAL COLUMN

LEGAL NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WATERMARK LEISURE LIMITED
ADMINISTRATORS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of Watermark Leisure Limited will be held at 10.00am on Friday 25th September 1997 at the offices of Watermark Leisure Limited, 10-18 Union Street, London SE1 2QH. The meeting will be for the purpose of the distribution of the assets of the company amongst the creditors who have not accepted the proposed scheme of arrangement. Creditors who have not accepted the proposed scheme of arrangement should contact the administrator's office on 0171 2000 2000. Creditors who have accepted the proposed scheme of arrangement should write to No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9AA. Creditors whose claims and expenses are not yet determined will be advised to attend or be represented at the meeting.

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NATIONAL RADIO EXHIBITION

DROP IN PRICES OF SETS FROM OUR WIRELESS CORRESPONDENT

The National Radio Exhibition will be opened at Olympia this morning at 11 o'clock, and will remain open until September 26. The latest developments in wireless receivers, from a "Baby Portable" that can be slipped in the hip pocket to a radio-gramophone 12ft. high, will be exhibited on five miles of stands. The total floor space occupied is three times as great as last year and makes this year's show the largest radio exhibition in the world.

The exhibition of wireless apparatus organized by the British Radio Manufacturers' Association cannot fail to be of interest to all broadcast listeners, whether they be technically minded or not. This exhibition has now become recognized as the annual expression of technical progress in wireless receiver design as well as a seasonal stimulus to business in what has become a great national industry.

Turning now to individual sets, pride of place must naturally be given to the *de luxe* models incorporating a wireless receiver and electrically driven gramophone. The Marconiophone Radio-Autogram, at £2 guineas, com-

ON THIS DAY

September 18, 1931

General strike

in Britain

NEWS

New deal for rape victims

■ Rape victims may be allowed to give evidence from behind screens and protected from prurient cross-examination as part of a drive to bring more sex attackers to justice.

Police, MPs and women's groups are all pressing the Home Secretary to act after the release of figures yesterday showing a dramatic rise in the number of rapes and sexual assaults reported to the police coupled with a fall in the number of trials and convictions..... Page 1

Princess's car may have hit another

■ The Mercedes in which Diana, Princess of Wales, made her final journey may have hit another car before crashing into a concrete pillar. Fragments of the plastic brake light from a Fiat Uno have been found close to pieces of the Mercedes's headlamp and wing mirror..... Pages 1, 5

Stalker sentenced

A former Army engineer waded a bracing campaign against his former girlfriend, using military skills to bug her telephone and stake out her home..... Page 1

US landmine row

America refused to sign a treaty banning landmines. President Clinton said that he could not sign a document that failed to accept the responsibilities of the only superpower..... Pages 1, 16

A step towards PR

The Liberal Democrats claimed that they had reached agreement with Labour to press ahead with the first steps towards proportional representation..... Page 2

Midge, 65, owns up

There was no doubt about the culprit when someone broke down the church door and cut the bell ropes. Midge Mather, 65, telephoned every member of the parochial church council to tell them what she had done..... Page 3

Referendum battle

John Prescott and William Hague tried to invigorate the Welsh devolution campaign amid signs that apathy could be the main factor..... Page 4

Millennium design

Fifty arbiters of style and form are to decide which are the most brilliant new British innovations to be trumpeted around the world to mark the millennium..... Page 6

Everton Supporters 1, Everton FC 0

■ When supporters of Everton football club discovered that the shirts they were wearing were not exact replicas of the ones the players were sporting, they cried foul. It transpired that it was the players who were wearing the wrong shirts. The outcry began when it appeared that the stripes on the replicas were not the same way up as those on the players' shirts..... Page 1



Sightseers yesterday examining the place in a Paris underpass where Diana, Princess of Wales, was fatally injured. Page 1

BUSINESS

Economy: The City is braced for further interest rate rises after new data showed unemployment at a seventeen year low and the high street spending boom continuing unabated..... Page 27

Kingfisher: Surging sales at B&Q, Kingfisher's DIY chain, helped to lift the retail group's interim earnings by a forecast-beating 36 per cent..... Page 27

Gas: BG, the demerged pipeline and exploration division of British Gas, confirmed it is to give £1.3 billion to investors..... Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 36.7 points to close at 5031.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 99.1 to 99.5 after rises from \$1.5939 to \$1.6024 and from DM2.8183 to DM2.8327..... Page 30

SPORT

Motor racing: Damon Hill has been dropped by the Arrows team for next season, when his place will be taken by Mika Salo, of Finland. Hill may join Jordan..... Page 52

Football: England, who are seventh, are now five places above their World Cup rivals, Italy, in the latest Fifa world rankings..... Page 52

Rugby union: Clive Woodward, the new England coach, will have as his assistant John Mitchell, the New Zealand back-row forward who has enjoyed success with Sale..... Page 40

Cricket: Glamorgan go to Taunton aiming for maximum points from their final county championship match. Anything less will open the way for Kent to take the title by beating Surrey..... Page 50

ARTS

Mastery Moor: Sam Mendes'sfers a thrilling new production of *Othello* at the National Theatre, with Simon Russell Beale outstanding as Iago..... Page 38

Leigh's girls: Mike Leigh continues his exploration of the North London psyche in *Career Girls*. The best Hollywood movie is *My Best Friend's Wedding*, with Julia Roberts in comic mode..... Page 39

Strauss and I: In the final extract from his autobiography, the late Sir Georg Solti recalls a memorable meeting with the composer Richard Strauss..... Page 40

Men in tutus: You don't have to be female to dress up in a tutu and perform *Swan Lake*, as the New York-based Ballets Trockadero prove in London..... Page 41

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Dr Thomas Stuttaford: Alzheimer's costs Britain £1.5 billion a year, accounting for 75 per cent of all cases of dementia..... Page 20

Political shadows: Once the wife was a pearl-necked nymph and becoming awfully good at fêtes. Now times have caught up with politicians' partners..... Page 21

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Fast mover: Since the Soviet empire, Kazakhstan has embarked on privatisation..... Pages 35-37

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Ski bonus: The windfall factor is sending Britons skiing..... Page 45

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The Americans believe in their constitution, the Germans in the mark; the British in the Union Jack. Our confidence goes first of all to the nation. It will be said that it is an abstraction; that one cannot clothe oneself with dreams. These are objections that have no meaning for our compatriots..... *Le Figaro*

7, 20, 21, 22, 40, 44. Bonus: 4

RADIO & TV

Review: Joe Joseph with an alternative voiceover for *The Antiques Show* (BBC1). Preview: Gerry Conlon, one of the Guildford Four, talks about his experiences in *Films of Fire: How Far Home* (Channel 4, 9.00pm)..... Pages 50, 51

OPINION

Bright Wednesday

It is fitting that the best economic figures seen in Britain for more than two decades should have been published on the fifth anniversary of Black Wednesday. Since then Britain has seen strong economic growth and a steady reduction in unemployment. This is a history lesson which the Labour Government must not forget..... Page 23

Hit and miss

Airlines have done much to assure passengers that their planes are safer; much more must be done if that assurance is to extend to the skies as well..... Page 23

Art Sensation

The purpose of any new art movement — in so far as it can be said to have a purpose — is to unsettle and challenge. New British artists forge their links with tradition even as they strive to break them..... Page 23

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

No one questions that Shirley Porter has been the object of prejudice. She is Jewish, and subliminal anti-Semitism is part of British culture..... Page 22

IAN DUNCAN SMITH

Labour seems to be pulling in different directions over welfare reform, from greater compulsion in pension contributions to ending or keeping means-testing..... Page 22

LORD CALLAGHAN

Economic and social conditions must be created in which private investment will flow as willingly to the sub-Saharan as it does to other developing countries..... Page 22

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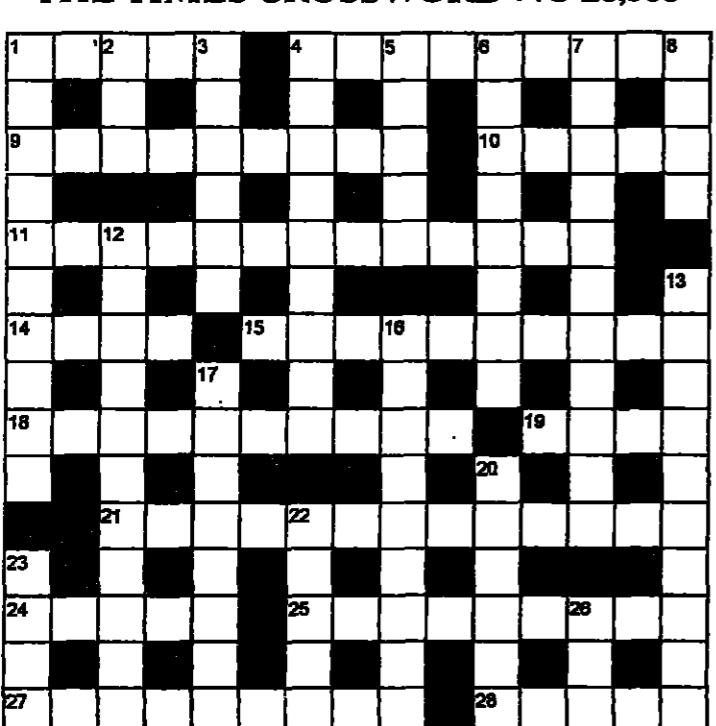
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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,588



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- 9 Soldier eating a coarse biscuit (9).
- 10 Give way to delay (5).
- 11 It gives one a hot tip for joining golf club after one leaves army service (9).
- 14 Ancient island with a resort (4).
- 15 Pushed for university in more ancient setting in Slough (10).
- 18 Version of holy book revised in Leo's papacy (10).
- 19 Charger resulting when sides of bacon go missing (4).
- 21 Neutral states (3-10).
- 24 Rise in region reported (5).
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18 1997

Stores urge caution as retail sales figures show strong growth

Spending in high street fuels rate fear

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
AND PHILIP BASSETT

THE City is braced for further interest rate rises after new data showed unemployment at a 17-year low and the high street spending boom continuing unabated. Unemployment fell to 1,496,500, or 5.3 per cent of the workforce, in August — the lowest figure since 1980.

Retail sales rose 0.4 per cent in August, the same rate as in July, although the annual rate slipped from 6.7 per cent to a still robust 5.6 per cent. The Office for National Statistics estimated that windfall spending added an extra £100 million to sales during the month.

Annual growth in average earnings also rose, from 4.25 per cent to 4.5 per cent, the maximum level that the Bank of England believes is compatible with stable inflation.

Economists said the stronger-than-expected data made it almost certain that the Bank would raise rates again before the end of the year, most probably in November.

This view received further backing from the minutes of the August monetary policy committee meeting, which were also published yesterday. The minutes show the committee believes inflation risks are "skewed to the upside".

Mark Wall, UK economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "Today's data dashed hopes of a rapid slowdown in the economy. As employment rises, consumer spending will be underpinned and should trigger another rise in rates before the end of the year."

Michael Dicks, UK economist at Lehman Brothers, said there was a danger that the Bank was now running "behind the curve" of necessary rate rises. "We're back to the

traditional pattern in the UK of too little too late," he said.

The threat of new base rate rises unsettled the gilt market and sent the pound higher on the foreign exchanges. The pound climbed a pence and a half against the mark to close at DM2.8327, while sterling's trade-weighted index rose 0.4 to close at 99.5.

But the stock market took the data in its stride, taking its cue from another strong performance in New York. The FTSE 100 index rose for the third day, closing up 36.7 points at 5,013.1. The market has now risen 3.3 per cent this week to completely erase the losses recorded last week.

The 55,000 fall in unemployment was the eighteenth successive drop. Claimant unemployment is now down by almost 1.5 million since its peak in December 1992.

The Government welcomed the fall but said the latest figures were highly seasonal. It emphasised that too much weight should not be placed on the edging-up of the figures for average earnings from 4.25 to 4.5 per cent.

Economists said the rise in earnings was largely confined to the construction industry while underlying earnings figures for manufacturing, production and service industries all remained stable in July. Simon Briscoe, director of economic research at Nikko Europe, also pointed to data showing a slowdown in employment growth from 97,000 in the first quarter of the year to 64,000 in the second.

Most of the monthly growth in retail sales came from the food sector which increased by 1.3 per cent over July. The quarterly figure for household goods, which attracted much of the windfall spending, was a record 8.2 per cent.

But economists said there was still little evidence of inflationary pressures on the high street despite the continuing consumer boom. Non-seasonal food prices fell sharply in August while overall high street inflation — as measured by the retail sales deflator — is running at an annual rate of just 0.6 per cent.

The City is expecting a marked slowdown in retail sales this month, partly because of the closure of shops for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. But most economists expect growth to

resume in October.

Commentary, page 29

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Britannic makes £150m mis-sold pension provision

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE yesterday disclosed that it had set aside £150 million to compensate investors who were mis-sold personal pensions.

It has also recruited 174 full-time staff to work on an investigation into the 13,500 priority cases it has identified.

Brian Shaw, chief executive, said that he was awaiting approval from the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) for a scheme to reinstate victims into occupational schemes and ensure they had not missed out on benefits. He added:

"Putting together compensation which mirrors the benefits they would have received had they joined an employer's scheme will take longer."

Harold Cottam, chairman of Britannic, said that he hoped to clear the first set of cases in time for the deadline laid down by the PIA at the end of this year.

The group's shares rose 93p to 939p after it announced a generous new dividend policy and a 21 per cent boost to operating profit. The 11 per cent rise made Britannic the

best performing share among FTSE 250 stocks yesterday and means the group is now capitalised at £1.8 billion.

Mr Cottam said he was keen to merge with a rival to fill the vacuum left as traditional home services providers such as Prudential chased more upmarket customers.

He said: "It would need to be a merger that adds value rather than just deliver market dominance." Analysts said the most suitable merger candidate would be United Assurance.

The increased dividend and the profits boost result from the injection of £1 billion of surplus assets released from its life fund in February.

The surplus, known as inherited estate or orphan assets, will fund a 20 per cent annual dividend growth over the next few years, the company forecasts. The surplus built up because previous shareholders had not always taken out the returns they were due.

Britannic, which yesterday unveiled results for the half-year to June 30, doubled its interim dividend to 10p a share and forecast the full-year payout would be 20 per cent higher at 33.6p per share.

Operating profit before tax was up 21 per cent to £80 million (£52.8 million).

Operating earnings per share were up 230 per cent to 30.38p (9.2p). Total shareholders' funds are £1.2 billion (December 1996: £132 million).

Tempus, page 30

Trinity profits up 34% at half time

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

TRINITY INTERNATIONAL, publisher of the *Liverpool Post* and the *Belfast Telegraph* newspapers, provided further evidence of the renaissance in the regional press sector yesterday with a 34 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £32 million, in the half-year to June.

Philip Graf, chief executive, attributed the improvement to strong advertising growth, lower newspaper costs and continuing savings from group restructuring.

On future prospects, he said: "I remain positive about the opportunities with-

in the regional media."

Turnover fell 3 per cent, from £165.3 million to £159 million, because of the sale of Trinity's Canadian division. Operating profit rose 28 per cent to £36.9 million.

Earnings per share increased 41.2 per cent to 16.1p. The interim dividend rose 11 per cent to 4p.

Trinity said it was continuing to benefit from advertising revenues strengthened by consumer confidence. Newspaper prices were stable, it added. Circulation initiatives were also expected to help progress.

Tempus, page 30

New Asda phonecard to undercut BT by up to 75%

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM



Leighton: market overpriced

ASDA, the supermarkets group, is to launch a pre-paid phonecard that will compete directly with British Telecom's own cards and charge up to 75 per cent less for calls.

Allan Leighton, chief executive of Asda, said his aim was to eliminate exaggerated profits in the UK's rapidly expanding phonecard market. He added: "Anyone who's been shocked by their phone bill knows how over-priced the UK phone market is."

A three-minute local evening call will cost 21p with the Asda card, compared with 27p with a BT phonecard and 60p with a BT chargecard. A five-minute weekend call to the US will cost £1 with the Asda card, £3.60 with the BT phonecard, and £4 with its chargecard.

Leighton said: "The market is already worth an annual £10 million, with a number of phonecard brands offering similar discounts to those provided by Asda."

The new card, which comes in £1, £3, £5 and £10 versions,

will go on trial at Asda's store in Pudsey, West Yorkshire, from early next month and is expected to be on sale nationwide by the end of the year. It may be used with any touch-tone phone to make calls within the UK and to more than 230 countries.

The card differs from the BT version, which the customer inserts into a slot in the phone.

Instead, each Asda card comes with a PIN number that is keyed in before dialling.

BT said: "The customer simply puts our card into the phone, whereas with the Asda version he or she has to type extra digits before the call begins. Not everyone wants to do that."

"But we recognise that it is a competitive market and this phonecard will represent good value for some customers."

American acquisition for CRH

By ADAM JONES

CRH, the Irish building materials group, has continued its US expansion with the purchase of CPM Development Corporation, based in Washington, for \$94 million (£59.1 million) in cash.

CPM's activities include production of asphalt aggregates and concrete for tasks such as roadbuilding and residential development.

The company made a pre-tax profit of \$14.6 million last year on sales of \$131 million.

Existing management will be retained and \$6 million of the purchase price will be conditional on performance.

CRH is paying book value for the company.

CRH's US materials division will now have sales of about \$1 billion.

NewRo Bill will kill off old Acts

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

NEWRO, the utility City regulator due to be introduced next year, is to be empowered by a single reform Bill that will sweep away the vast array of financial services legislation that has accumulated over the years, Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, announced yesterday.

The Treasury has decided against amending existing financial services legislation.

Instead, laws such as the Financial Services Act, the Banking Act, the Building Societies Act and the Policyholders Protection Act will, where possible, be repealed and replaced with a single Act.

A draft Bill will be published for consultation next summer.

Mrs Liddell refused to detail the Bill's contents, but said:

FRANK Usher gives warning on first-half profits

By JENNIFER DAVEY

FRANK USHER has announced a rise in pre-tax profits from £2.02 million to £2.15 million in the year to May 31. Sales rose slightly from £21.6 million to £21.9 million.

The clothes designer gave warning that it is unlikely to be able to maintain the same level of first-half profits in the current year. It predicts that it will be hard to maintain margins and volume in the short term.

The spring/summer 1998 collections have just started showing, however, and early indications are encouraging.

The company said it was pleased with its results. Sales showed rises in the UK and significant growth in newer export markets in France, Spain, and Italy, despite decreased sales in Germany because of general economic conditions.

Re-orders and high product demand meant that at the year end group warehousing capacity was doubled and turnaround increased.

Exports, which accounted for 53 per cent of sales in 1996, were down to 50 per cent this year, which is attributed to the strong pound.

Earnings per share rose from 18.1p to 19.7p, because of the higher profit and a higher than normal tax charge in the previous year.

There is a final dividend of 7p, making an unchanged total for the year of 11.0p. The shares fell from 161.5p to 161.2p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

France and Germany mount Liffe challenge

FRANCE and Germany have joined forces to create Europe's largest derivatives exchange, SBF-Bourse de Paris, the French stock market body, announced plans to buy the Matif futures and options exchange. It has signed a letter of intent to link with Deutsche Boerse, the German stock exchange body, which owns the DTB electronic futures exchange. The move points to further consolidation among European derivatives exchanges in the run-up to the launch of the single European currency. It poses a fresh challenge to the London International Financial Futures Exchange, Liffe said. The Franco-German move was a response to its own competitive strength. A spokesman said: "This is not really a surprise. The advent of EMU will mean fewer exchanges. This is a challenge, but it is also a response, in a way, to our successes."

Meanwhile, CEENET, set up by the Corporation of London in 1994 to promote London as a financial centre, is today expected to agree a merger with British Invisibles, the promotional body. Henrietta Royle, chief executive of CEENET, said it would lead to a "more co-ordinated" approach to selling London abroad.

Electricity complaints

LONDON ELECTRICITY is being scrutinised by its regulator, Offer, after a 55 per cent rise in customer complaints to Offer. The regional electricity company has recruited 50 more staff to deal with calls, and Offer is working with it. A spokeswoman said: "We are working out the most appropriate way to handle their complaints. Part of the problem has been customers not feeling satisfied with the way their complaints have been dealt with. Complaints rose to 561 in the year to March 31, from 360. Northern Electric complaints rose 27 per cent to 460. In all, complaints about electricity companies fell 10 per cent."

Gas switch for 500,000

A QUARTER of gas customers who can shop around for their supply have left British Gas, the regulator said yesterday. The number of switches has climbed to 500,000, with customers changing supplier at a rate of 5,000 a week. Clare Spanswick, the gas regulator, said the figure was an important milestone. She said: "As we expected, there was a surge of interest when competition was extended to Avon, Dorset, Kent and Sussex in February and March this year." Competition, which started in the South West, will move to Scotland and the North East on November 1.

EU fears over ferry deal

THE European Commission still has serious doubts about a planned joint venture between P&O and Stena Line, the ferry companies. EU sources said on Wednesday. They said the EU executive was not expected to rule on the case before the end of November. One source said: "A final decision is not expected before the end of November at the earliest." The Commission will soon send a so-called statement of objections to the companies, detailing its problems with the proposed deal, the sources said. P&O and Stena would have six weeks to reply to the Commission's objections.

Pound hits Bowthorpe

SHARES in Bowthorpe, the electronic components manufacturer, rose 17.5p to 366.5p yesterday, in spite of the company reporting falls in both profits and sales. The rise in share price was seen as a sign of confidence in the restructuring plan designed by Nick Brookes, the company's recently appointed chief executive. Bowthorpe blamed the strength of sterling for the 5 per cent fall in half-year pre-tax profits, from £4.5 million to £40.2 million, and the 4 per cent fall in sales, from £270 million to £260 million. An interim dividend of 3.4p, up from 3.2p, is to be paid on December 8.

One-stop Woolwich

THE Woolwich has pitched into the lucrative field of conveyancing by opening its first estate agency one-stop shop. The bank is offering homebuyers the services of estate agent, mortgage lender and solicitor. Other estate agents have already piloted the scheme. These include Hambro Countrywide, which hopes to benefit from the extra fees such services will generate. Woolwich's first shop is based in High Wycombe and will open later this year. Woolwich is taking advantage of the boom in the property market and the planned rationalisation of Lloyds TSB's Black Horse estate agencies.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.94	2.16
Austria Sch	20.55	19.30
Belgium Fr	81.73	56.77
Canada \$	2.350	2.162
Cyprus Cyp £	0.692	0.810
Denmark Kr	11.38	10.48
Finland Mkk	9.45	8.30
France Fr	10.0	9.22
Germany Dm	2.09	2.57
Greece Dr	474	435
Hong Kong \$	13.25	12.05
Iceland	128	108
Ireland Pt	1.12	1.03
Israel Shk	5.92	5.27
Italy Lira	2941	2704
Japan Yen	207.63	190.10
Malta	0.683	0.604
New Zealand \$	3.384	3.089
Norway Kr	12.13	11.19
Portugal Esc	300.53	278.50
S Africa Rd	8.22	7.28
Spain Pt	250.79	232.00
Sweden Kr	13.01	11.91
Switzerland Fr	2.48	2.26
Turkey Lira	283.21	263.243
USA \$	1.709	1.596

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Tobacco companies see early gains stubbed out

EARLY gains enjoyed by the tobacco companies went up in smoke last night after President Clinton outlined his measures to reduce smoking among teenagers.

They included a rise of 1.50p (94p) on a packet of cigarettes over the next ten years. The companies will also face severe penalties if they do not cut teenage smoking rates by up to 60 per cent in ten years.

Mr Clinton's move also threw into doubt the \$36.5 billion (£23 billion) settlement thrashed out in June between 40 state attorney-generals and the tobacco industries, including BAT Industries, Brown & Williamson, Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco. It is feared the companies may be called on to make further concessions. A settlement before the new year now seems unlikely.

Brokers say this will further unsettle the tobacco companies. BAT finished 1p easier at 512.5p, after touching 523p, while Imperial Tobacco was 8p off at 575p. Imps also had to face up to the news that it has lost market share to Gallaher, up 4p at 273p after interim figures yesterday.

Paul Hodges, of Schroders, said BAT shares were inexplicably cheap whether or not the US litigation goes through.

Share prices generally climbed back above the 5,000 level helped by Wall Street's 17-point surge overnight. But they closed well below their best of the day, with the FTSE 100 index ending up 36.7 points at 5,013.1, having touched 5,035.3 earlier in the day.

However, stronger than expected retail sales and wage inflation combined with a sharp drop in unemployment to revive old fears about rising interest rates. A total of 865 million shares were traded.

Rank Group finished 6p lower at 351.5p in spite of a revised talk of a bid from Bass, steady at 84p after a trading update. The latest talk suggests both sides may have had talks. Rank, which was in New York earlier this week talking to fund managers, has a price tag of £2.7 billion.

Things are starting to look brighter for Britain's exporters after the recent decline by the pound against the mark. British Steel, up 10p at 184p, is one beneficiary and this has led SBC Warburg, the broker, to upgrade its stance from a "hold" to a "buy".

BG, of which David Varney



David Varney, the chief executive of BG, left, and Philip Hampton, finance director, saw the price fall to 258.5p

is chief executive, booted over after its recent strong run, with the price falling 10p to 258.5p on turnover of more than ten million shares. It confirmed plans to buy back £1.3 billion worth of shares, but the rebasing of the payout from 14p to 8p did not go down well among the income group.

Half-year figures from

Wickes today should show it is back on the mend. The loss-making do-it-yourself group is expected to reveal a deficit of £1.3 million. There is no comparison for last year because the shares were suspended. But brokers are confident it has turned the corner and is ready to swing back into profits for the full year. The shares rose 6p to 179.5p.

TRACKER Network fell 10p to 575p after a breakdown in merger talks with Trafficleader, 12p off at 369p. The bid of approach lifted Dwyer Estates 2.5p to 69p. Joey Estandi is apparently considering a bid of 70p a share for the outstanding 76 per cent of the shares he does not already own.

□ **GLI-EDGED:** Government bonds saw their early gains frittered away after the latest batch of economic figures failed to live up to expectations.

The rise in the August retail sales and average earnings were higher than the market had anticipated and revived dormant fears about further increases in the base rate.

In the futures pit, the December series of the Long Gilt touched a peak of 117.72 before reverting to close three ticks down on the day at 117.72 as the total number of contracts completed reached a hefty 156,000.

Conventional issues closed mixed, providing for a further flattening of the yield curve. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was unchanged at 111.33, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 shed 1p to 110.33.

□ **NEW YORK:** Blue chips drifted higher as investors shrugged off an early bout of profit-taking. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 7.35 points at 7,903.27.

NATIONAL POWER fell 20p at 552p and PowerGen 22p to 755p following publication of a circular from Panmure Gordon, the broker, claiming profit estimates among other brokers were too optimistic.

Philip Hollobone at Panmure said: "There will need to be serious downward revisions to forecasts in the next few months.

Nine brokers are at PowerGen.

The PowerGen share price has been coming down in sympathy and that's wrong. There is even the chance of a share buy-back", adds Hollobone.

□ **THE MARKET:** Blue chips drifted higher as investors shrugged off an early bout of profit-taking. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 7.35 points at 7,903.27.

□ **BRITISH STEEL:** Blue chips drifted higher as investors shrugged off an early bout of profit-taking. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 7.35 points at 7,903.27.

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Harcourt Brace Jovanovich used to be America's largest publisher of textbooks. The company, built on a roster of distinguished authors including Virginia Woolf and T.S. Eliot, made so much money that it was able to diversify into theme parks. Sea World and Cypress Gardens became the fun parts of the portfolio.

The party came to an abrupt end in 1987, when Robert Maxwell, then at the height of his arrogance and power, made a hostile \$2.2 billion (£1.4 billion) bid for Harcourt. The attack ultimately failed, but it was a pyrrhic victory for Harcourt. Other than nearly destroying the company, it ended any chance that Peter Jovanovich, the son of William Jovanovich, the chief executive who had run the group since 1954, would build on his father's work.

The younger Jovanovich, now 48, has just surfaced as chairman and chief executive of Addison Wesley Longman, the educational arm of Pearson, the *Financial Times* to Madame Tussaud's

New chapter begins in publisher's life

group. The trim, preppy-looking American remembers the Maxwell defence as a frantic, yet wasted, era in which Harcourt was more concerned with paying off its crippling debt than publishing books.

Harcourt foiled Maxwell's advance by paying a cash dividend of \$40. It financed the "bribe" by issuing \$1.8 billion of junk bonds, the debt instruments that compensate investors for their dubious credit ratings with high interest payments. The payments, of course, eliminated Harcourt's profits and the share price went through the floor. William Jovanovich was forced to sell the theme parks. Exhausted, he stepped down in 1990 and Peter was called into action.

The situation was desperate. "We were either going to sell the company or go bankrupt," Peter said. "I quickly learnt to negotiate

with angry junk bond holders." Two years later, he sold the company his father built to General Cinema for \$1.4 billion. He was a free man, but not for long.

McGraw-Hill, the market leader in the US textbook market, snapped him up and made him president of Macmillan/McGraw-Hill School Publishing, a joint venture between the two companies. The irony was delicious. Macmillan Inc was the publishing house that Maxwell pursued, and won, after the failed Harcourt bid.

"I couldn't get away from the man," Peter said.

Patrick Quinn, the senior editor of Educational Marketing, a US newsletter that covers the textbook industry, said the younger Jovanovich distinguished himself at Macmillan/McGraw-Hill with the launch of several classroom hits. One of them, the *Adventures in Time and Space* social studies



Jovanovich: work cut out

series, took 60 per cent of the Texas market. Mr Quinn said: "I would say that Peter was instrumental in leading McGraw-Hill to several great successes."

In 1995, Jovanovich became president of McGraw-Hill's educational and professional publishing group, one of the top jobs in the industry worldwide. He will not say why he left the company, but it is an industry axiom that your chances of rising to the top at McGraw-Hill increase dramatically if you are a member of the founding McGraw family. Peter was not.

In the spring, David Veit, Pearson's senior director in the US, introduced him to Marjorie Scardino, Pearson's new chief executive. They took an instant liking to each other and in late July she offered him the job as the head of Addison Wesley Longman.

Addison is enormous. Its sales last year were about \$950 million, accounting for more than a third of Pearson's annual sales. It is the leading player in English language training in America and internationally, but lags well behind in the school age and the

college markets, where McGraw-Hill and Simon & Schuster reign supreme. In short, Jovanovich has his work cut out for him.

He admits that margins are not up to industry standards and, in the college market particularly, Addison has relied too heavily on titles that have reached their sell-by dates. The division also suffers because the American and British sides of the business were never properly integrated. "There has been no transatlantic viewpoint," Jovanovich said.

He has been at the job for less than two months and will not reveal Addison's growth strategy, other than to say that it will involve the sale of hard slog. New writers, editors, designers and salespeople will be recruited and new markets are to be exploited, notably in Asia. More large acquisitions, such as last year's £369 million purchase of HarperCollins Educational, are

unlikely until the operating units on both sides of the Atlantic have been melded together.

The City has high hopes for Peter Jovanovich in particular and Pearson's educational division in general. Pearson has been accused of being unfocused and analysts are putting pressure on it to sell businesses such as the Lazard's investment bank, that have no obvious links with the rest of the group. But Addison has emerged as a core holding with strong potential for growth. The market is working in Addison's favour, especially in the US, where more children than ever are entering the school system and school budgets are expanding.

William Jovanovich, who is 77 and lives in San Diego, is delighted that his son is making a name for himself in the textbooks business, albeit one that does not carry the family name. Peter said: "I always talk to my dad about book publishing. He's in the pantheon of great educational publishers and he's a good sounding board."

ERIC REGULY

It is not only America that should count the cost of new federalism



AMERICAN AGENDA
BRONWEN MADDOX

Americans have been almost as quick as Downing Street to take credit for the flush of emotion in Britain after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. At last, commentators have argued, Britain is curing itself of the stiff upper lip, recognising the healthiness of American-style openness.

That psychological triumphalism has emerged seamlessly from the economic boastfulness in which the Clinton Administration has indulged itself this summer: the view, voiced most loudly during the French elections and the Denver G8 summit, that the US has perfected the formula for prosperity.

Now there is Scottish devolution. It, too, has been greeted by US politicians as a step, albeit long overdue and clumsy designed, towards an American or German-style federal system. One of the parts of the US Constitution about which Americans feel most passionate is the Tenth Amendment, which directs that any powers not explicitly given to the federal government are "reserved to the states . . . or the people".

Some also see the Scottish votes as embodying the spirit of the "new federalism", the shift of power and money from Washington to state governments which has been a Republican rallying cry for nearly two decades, and is currently the strongest flavour in US politics.

These days, the most powerful politicians in the US are not the battered old Washington warhorses familiar to British TV screens, but the state governors. In their state capitals, each edifice a copy of the Washington Capitol's white dome, they are often more able to execute their ideas than the president or congressional leaders.

The trouble is that the new federalism is not working nearly as well as is claimed. It fails



Some see Scotland as embodying the spirit of the new federalism, as money and power shift from Washington

ures contain warnings for Britain, not to mention Canada, Mexico, India and the other nations that have caught the bug. States are exercising their new strength by scuppering many national initiatives, from trade policy to deregulation of crucial industries, jeopardising the overall competitiveness of America. It is also easy to overlook the fact that the roots of the

industry is a reminder of the current impotence of Washington in the face of state governments. The immediate hurdle for the White House, of course, is to strike a deal with the Republican-controlled Congress, whose leaders have made clear that they would prefer to shelve the subject until next year. But the greater obstacle is that state govern-

and business in the country. For American families, the local electricity bill is often their most expensive utility by far, with bills running into hundreds of dollars a month. This year's Economic Report of the President was provoked to address the subject bluntly under the heading "Reasons for the delay in deregulating electricity and telephone". It put for-

ices between states, and damping down migration across state borders. They have also allowed the states quietly to run budget surpluses each year while the federal government runs a much-publicised deficit.

That may change. Much of the current surplus is something of a windfall, an echo from the recession. The grants were originally based on the number of people on welfare, but with radical reforms, and the economic boom, the numbers are plummeting. Under the new rules, states will have more responsibility for paying for their own social services.

The result, some fear, will be much more migration within the US, as people and businesses uproot to avoid rising local taxes in the poorer states.

Massachusetts, historically a high-tax state, took years to recover from emigration to New Hampshire, Vermont, New York and Connecticut. As the inner cities have found, it can be hard to halt the downward financial spiral caused by the flight of the affluent.

That is the same competition that threatens to reduce some

standards. In the face of this fragmentation, some are

resolutely optimistic. Competition between states should eventually push utility deregulation through, argues Joseph Stiglitz, the World Bank's chief economist, who was previously chairman of the US Council of Economic Advisors. States do not want to lose businesses to their neighbours because their costs are too high. But the problem is that the same competition threatens to reduce some

standards, such as environmental rules, to the lowest common denominator, undermining popular policies that benefit the whole country.

A second worry is whether the governors are as able to pay

their way as they believe. At the moment they are riding high, courtesy of Washington. For

years, the federal government

has paid them grants for welfare and social services. These

transfers have had an important effect in smoothing out lev-

els of benefits and social ser-

vices.

But unpicking layers of re-

gional subsidies, the financial

glue of a nation, has unpredictable

results which may not help the country as a whole.

Nor may they be entirely welcome, when they finally become

clear, to the inhabitants of the

poorer regions, even though

they may have been among the

most passionate campaigners

for local autonomy.

Old guard at The Savoy have reason to be grateful

Unpopular reforms are paying off, say

Jon Ashworth and Dominic Walsh

Ramón Pajares was loudly boozed when he took the Savoy stage barely three years ago, but his critics are starting to eat their words. His unpopular reforms aimed at dragging a fading collection of hotels into the modern age have seen their world reflected in yet another robust set of financial results.

Claridge's, newly revitalised with a £40 million facelift, is turning away bookings. The Berkeley, which had £11 million spent on it, is enjoying spectacular success with Vong, its fashionable eatery, where sales have soared 400 per cent in two years. The Savoy, feeling the benefits of an £18 million overhaul, has just been voted Hotel of the Year by readers of *Executive Travel* magazine – snatching the crown away from the Far East for the first time in 15 years.

Reputable business has risen from 49 to 60 per cent. Huge resources are being devoted to training – £425,000 this year alone – and a flag-waving tour of 34 cities cost a further £1.8 million.

The Savoy old guard don't like this sort of thing, of course, arguing that only a foreigner (Mr Pajares hails from Catalonia) would be brazen enough to meddle with such icons of Britishness. Foreign or not, Mr Pajares is an hotelier, first and foremost, with 20 years with Four Seasons under his belt, and he has risen above the critics. As he said recently: "I am giving back these buildings that they deserve so they can be here for another 100 years."

Meanwhile, the financial transformation of The Savoy Group looks set to continue. Analysts expect pre-tax profits of about £23 million this year, with perhaps £30 million in 1998. The previous high was £14.3 million in 1987 under Giles Shepard, now at the Ritz. On top of his annual bonuses, Mr Pajares is in line for a one-off payment of £150,000 when profits hit a figure near £20 million. He has earned it.

Wilmslow boy

COULD Jim Sutcliffe, slung out of the Prudential last Friday after he fell out with Sir Peter Davis, resurface at United Assurance? Institutional investors, who feel United Assurance has been losing its way of late, would like to see Mr Sutcliffe in charge. He is still a respected figure in the life assurance industry and leaves the Prudential at the end of the month.

Alas, two doubts remain. The job of shaking up United Assurance, created by the



THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

All is different now, even if no one at the company can quite bring themselves to admit that their products are bad for you. So Gallaher, the fag company spun out of American Brands, has stubbed out an age-old tradition. Pensions of the company used to be entitled to receive 200 free gapers a month. This cost £4 million a year, even if it did tend to save on pension costs as the years drew on. Now the hand-outs have been scrapped.

□ **UNHELPFUL, unsympathetic and unprofessional** was the verdict on tax officials and their approach to the general public who pay their wages. It could not have come at a worse time for those millions who now have less than a fortnight to get their self-assessment forms in or be forced to do the sums themselves. So let it here be placed on record that I rang the self-assessment helpline a couple of days ago, while struggling with my own form. And they could not have been more helpful, sympathetic and professional.

Giving up

IN THE days before political correctness there used to be pressure on everyone working for the cigarette companies to puff away like beagles. Old City hands will recall briefings at BAT Industries when the air was virtually opaque, the beard chain-smoked to a man and handfuls of coffin nails were given out at the entrance.

IS THIS the first signs of a tougher regime as Marjorie Scardino shakes up Pearson?

An internal memo tells staff at Pearson Professional, which includes financial magazines such as *Investors Chronicle*, that Peter Warwick will not be chief executive there after October 10. It is all about focusing on fewer businesses, and the division has recently been slimmed by a disposal. Other opportunities to exploit his talents are being sought, and Pearson is keen to keep him after 14 years of service. But no guarantees. This from a company that has a reputation of being one of those benign concerns from which no one is ever sacked.

MARTIN WALLER



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"Well, so much for your minimalist phase!"

Claremont Garments trims dividend forecast

By GEORGE SIVELL

SHARES in Claremont Garments, the clothing manufacturer, fell 12p to 94½p yesterday after the group revealed a cut in the forecast dividend for the year to 5p compared with 9.87p in the previous year.

The Marks & Spencer supplier reported a fall in pre-tax profits from £2.7 million to £655,000 in the six months to June 30. Operating profit fell from £3.6 million to £2.4 million on sales up from £84.4 million to £86.4 million.

Earnings fell from 3.5p to 1.3p per share. However, an uncovered 2p interim dividend will be paid, down from 4.62p last time. Peter Wiegand, chairman, said: "While we expect a much-improved operating performance in the second half against 1996, it is unlikely that in the second half of the year we will achieve the level of operating profit made in the comparable period of 1995."

Mr Wiegand says that the inability to replace staff quickly after its recent restructuring will lose the group £9 million to £10 million of sales in the full year. He said that after the plant closure in Glasgow and consolidation at other sites, the group did not replace the UK labour force at the same rate as demand picked up. He says the loss of sales had cost a "few million" pounds in profit.

The group is, however, already getting more offshore capacity on stream. Its Tunisian lingerie operation is preparing to start production later in the year. Coupled with a completion of staff training in Britain, Mr Wiegand said the group will be on a better footing at the end of the year.

Marks & Spencer business currently accounts for about 95 per cent of turnover at the group, which is M&S's fifth-largest supplier. This turnover split is set to rise as the group sells its only non-M&S supplier, Bellrise, which makes clothing for Next.



Peter Wilson, Gallaher chairman, left, with Philip Burchell, finance director, after reporting sales up 6.6 per cent yesterday

Tobacco adverts ban in 2000, says Gallaher chief

By CHRIS AYRES

THE BAN on tobacco advertising could take another three years to come into effect because of a shortage of parliamentary time, one of Britain's leading cigarette manufacturers said yesterday.

Gallaher, whose Silk Cut and Benson and Hedges brands are smoked by an estimated six million Britons, made the prediction as it reported a 6.6 per cent rise in half-year sales to £21 million. The company said its share of the UK market increased from 39 per cent to 39.5 per cent.

Peter Wilson, chairman and chief executive, said: "The

matter of the advertising ban has not gone to Parliament yet and given the availability of parliamentary time and the need to draft legislation it could be a while before any change comes about. It's hard to speculate exactly how long it will take, but my opinion is that it will be in 2000 rather than 1997."

The Government is expected shortly to produce a White Paper on the proposed ban, which has provoked protests from cigarette manufacturers and sports bodies that rely heavily on advertising revenue from tobacco companies.

The company, which was demerged from American Brands in May, reported a 7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits

yesterday, from £156 million to £167 million. Earnings per share were 17.9p, and a dividend of 9.625p will be paid on November 3.

The company said that increased duty on cigarettes in the United Kingdom had stifled the cigarette market and had encouraged the smuggling of tobacco products.

Gallaher estimates that more than 70 per cent of the UK's hand-rolling tobacco market is taken up by goods smuggled from the Continent, where a 50-gram bag of its Old Holborn brand is £6 cheaper than in Britain.

An interim dividend of 3.5p (3p) is to be paid partly as a foreign income dividend.

Sterling puts squeeze on Bernard Matthews profit

BERNARD MATTHEWS, the poultry group, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits to £6.7 million in the six months to July 13, from £10.4 million in the same period last year, in spite of a 7.5 per cent increase in overall sales to £85.3 million (Alistair Pegg writes).

Sales of branded products in the UK rose by more than 10 per cent, while foreign operations increased turnover 14 per cent, largely because of the

contribution of Bartsch, the newly acquired German company. The interim dividend is 1.8p per share (1.7p). Earnings per share were 3.49p (5.76p).

The company blamed sterling's strength for squeezing export profit margins and enabling foreign imports to depress domestic turkey meat prices.

Higher interest rates, falling commodity meat prices and high cereal prices also had an adverse effect.

Computer games market is predicted to boom

THE European computer games market is set to boom in the next five years, according to a report. Europeans will spend more than £15 billion on home computer games software in 2002, says *European Electronic Games 1997-2002*, a new report from Datamonitor, the analyst.

Online games, conducted over networks such as the Internet, will be worth £376 million in 2002, it says.

Faster and cleverer personal computers, capable of running more complicated software, and becoming much more popular in people's homes, will be the prime cause of the boom.

By 2002, the report says, 44.5 million European homes will have a multimedia computer. Dedicated games consoles will slowly be superseded by computers, and by better machines that are a hybrid of the two, it forecasts.

John Laing builds on property market recovery

By ADAM JONES

JOHN LAING, the house-building and construction company, has increased interim profits 43 per cent, aided by buoyancy in the property market and modest improvement in the beleaguered UK construction sector.

Pre-tax profits for the first half of 1997 rose to £12.4 million on turnover up from £57.4 million to £63.4 million.

The profit margin in the construction division, which provides most of the turnover, was 0.3 per cent. The company is aiming for 2 per cent by 2000.

Two Private Finance Initiative (PFI) construction projects for which Laing is the preferred bidder, the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and the Joint Services Command and Staff College, are likely to receive final authorisation in the second half of the company said.

The company has spent £7 million bidding for PFI contracts, £4 million of which will be recovered when the two projects are finalised. It is preferred bidder on a third, the National Physical Laboratory.

The average sale price of a Laing home rose from £39,000 to £45,000, a result of the growing inclusion of more luxurious properties. Sir Martin Laing, chairman, said that price increases were concentrated on southern England. Prices were flat in Scotland.

Laing sold 650 UK homes in the half and expects to sell 1,600 to 1,700 in the full year, in addition to 750 in the US.

The company said that it owns enough land for two-and-a-half years of UK development.

An interim dividend of 3.5p (3p) is to be paid partly as a foreign income dividend.

Somerfield buoyed by sales progress

SOMERFIELD said that sales in the first 16 weeks of the current year were slightly ahead of the same period a year earlier. Shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting were told by Andrew Thomas, chairman, that the group is encouraged by progress in the current financial year. In particular, operating margins continue to show improvement, primarily through higher gross margins as a result of buying savings and better mix. Mr Thomas said: "Against a background of continued food price deflation, overall sales for the first 16 weeks are slightly ahead of the corresponding period last year." In the Somerfield facia stores, like-for-like sales volume growth was ahead of that achieved throughout 1996-97. Mr Thomas added. Shares of Somerfield rose 1p yesterday.

Mr Thomas added: "We continue to focus our primary efforts on improving the offer to our customers and, since the year end, have accelerated the reshaping of our portfolio with two new stores opened, five under construction, 14 new conversions and contracts exchanged for the disposal of a further 36."

Crucible succession

JAMES SPOONER, the non-executive chairman of Morgan Crucible, the engineering and specialty materials group, has resigned at the age of 65 after 14 years in the post. A spokeswoman for the company said that Mr Spawner was retiring. He will leave the board on December 31, to be succeeded by Bruce Farmer, who is currently managing director. Ian Norris has been appointed deputy managing director, with a view to succeeding Dr Farmer on January 1. Pre-tax profit in the last full year was £100.2 million (£85 million). The shares closed up 6p at 485½p.

Hof opens £12m store

HOUSE OF FRAZER has opened its new department store in the Victoria shopping centre in Nottingham. The new store represents an investment of more than £12 million and forms the key feature of a new extension to the shopping centre. With 81,000 square feet of selling space and some 350 members of staff, the Nottingham store brings the total number of stores owned by House of Fraser to 51 and is the first to have been designed reflecting House of Fraser's re-focused marketing programme.

Hemingway buys sites

HEMINGWAY PROPERTIES has agreed to buy a portfolio of 43 properties from Scottish Life for £44.1 million, to be met by borrowing and from existing cash resources. The portfolio currently produces rental income of £4.1 million, giving a net initial yield of about 9 per cent. The portfolio consists of retail, office and industrial premises in England and Scotland, where Hemingway said that it sees potential for transactions to enhance capital value and rental streams. Hemingway said that prospects for the group during the current financial year continue to be satisfactory. Its shares rose 1p to 41p.

Select in American deal

SELECT APPOINTMENTS has acquired the business and certain related assets of Aztec Consulting Services for a maximum of £7.2 million (£4.5 million). Aztec, based in New Jersey, provides information technology personnel specialising in programming, software development, systems analysis and testing. The maximum aggregate consideration is £7.2 million. In 1996 Aztec reported profit before tax of \$748,956 on sales of \$12.2 million. For the first six months of this year Aztec reported profit before tax of \$57,982 on sales of \$7.1 million.

Taxpayers, watch this space

With the deadline for tax returns looming, Andrew Meeson gives an assessment of self-assessment



Andrew Meeson says the Revenue can make inquiries within that time, it must leave your return alone after that (unless it discovers you left things out, or made false statements in the return).

The Revenue is committed to keeping these inquiries non-confrontational, as far as possible. Most will be settled by correspondence between the inspector of taxes and you or your adviser, although there may be times when the inspec-

tor suggests a meeting. In addition, the inspector may ask you to provide documentary evidence of any entries in your return — for example interest certificates, contract notes, etc.

Do not forget that you are required to hold on to these documents at least until January 1999 (2003 if you are self-employed), and there are fines of up to £3,000 if you do not.

The author is a senior tax manager at Price Waterhouse.

A fudge that could lead to an alliance

THE INEVITABLE HAS HAPPENED. The International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) has stumbled in the final furlong as it turtles towards its deadline of next spring for a fully agreed core set of international financial reporting rules. And, as expected, it is the question of accounting for financial instruments that has brought it down. Now, instead of presenting its own very different accounting standard on the topic, it is to simply take on board the existing US rules.

That is exactly what everyone feared would happen when the IASC embarked on its task of finalising a core set of accounting standards that would open up the possibility of an American stock market listing to international companies complying with the IASC rules. Given the interminable time that accounting standards have taken to finalise in the past the timetable the IASC adopted always looked optimistic in the extreme.

The International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), which has the final word on whether or not the IASC work is good enough for it to endorse international standards as being adequate for cross-border offerings and listings, may now find its task easier.

After all, much of the opposition has come from the Americans and they can hardly argue if the IASC rules start to be lifted simply from the Americans' own rulebook, even if they cover only the measurement of derivatives and accounting for hedging.

But it may not be as simple as that. The decision has yet to be taken. The IASC board meets in Paris at the end of October and the proposals come in two stages. The first is that the American standard be adopted "as an interim measure". The second is that the IASC should "join with national standard setters, including the American Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), to work to agree a harmonised international standard". Sir Bryan Cursberg, IASC's chief, said: "We are taking an interim step in a special situation. It is the only way we can meet the April deadline."

This is to some extent gets everyone off the hook. It had been expected that the American Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which provides the toughest hurdle for companies outside the US to gain a listing, would eventually use the lack of completion of the financial instruments standard as an

easy way to insist that the IASC's efforts had failed. Now it will not be able to argue that.

The efforts to produce rules that will govern the use of financial instruments have been fraught on both sides of the Atlantic. Those people promulgating rules are in reasonable agreement. It is everyone else who disagrees. In America, there are any number of prospective rules in the process of completion. In the UK, the programme, though vigorous, has some way to go.

This week sees the publication of the latest edition of the monumental and standard work on financial reporting, *UK GAAP*, produced by a team from Ernst & Young. It says: "It is clear that the subject of accounting for financial instruments is likely to remain one of the most difficult regulatory challenges for the next few years. Perhaps unusually, there seems to be a high degree of consensus among the major standard setters — that marking all financial instruments to market can be the only ultimate solution —

but this is a controversial view that may meet with considerable resistance."

As an illustration of this it would be hard to better the outrage with which Martin Scitula, chairman of Deloitte & Touche, greeted the news of the IASC decision. "Is it wise of the IASC to disregard both the opposition in the US and the interests of companies worldwide which do not find the US proposals appropriate to their circumstances?" he said. "Could this be due to excessive pressure from the SEC? Could it be that the SEC is finding more and more resistance in the US to the FASB proposals and is now trying the global route?"

And he also alleged that most companies liked financial instruments because they resembled icebergs. "The risks that companies assume in taking on derivatives remain mainly off-balance sheet, under the water," he said.

But the IASC's difficulties could be turned to advantage, which is clearly how Sir Bryan would like to see the situation. Once IOSCO approves the international rules next year there could be an alliance between IASC, FASB and the other standard-setting bodies to renegotiate and build effective rules on financial instruments. What started as a fudge to meet a timetable could turn into a proper global alliance of the bodies that set the rules of financial reporting.

Measured performance

DOWN at the English ICA last week they were wondering whether directors at the Woolwich brought sleeping bags and pyjamas along to board meetings just in case they didn't get home before midnight. The thoughts were prompted by the extraordinary performance of Sir Brian Jenkins, Woolwich chairman and a past president of the institute, in chairing the institute's annual corporate report-

ANOTHER BUSINESS

ing conference. By midday, two hours into the event, it was already an hour behind schedule. And at the appointed hour for lunch, with one speaker and a panel discussion still to come, Jenkins started asking the audience if the next speaker should be shunted onto the afternoon shift. In his inimitable and disarming way he simply said "I've totally lost control". Fortunately for Jenkins one of the

No 'hot air' jokes

THIS weekend sees the annual Open House event when London buildings open to the public. And again the star attraction is Chartered Accountants' Hall, HQ of the English ICA. We would suggest trying the famous echo in the council chamber, but it is closed for repairs to the air-conditioning. Jokes about the quality of hot air are wearing thin among staff. But the rest of the building is open from 10am to 1pm on Saturday.

ROBERT BRUCE

ROBERT BRUCE



KAZAKHSTAN

FOCUS

David Watts introduces a three-page report on a country that is moving quickly to develop its rich resources

Nation poised at the crossroads

Even by the standards of the former Eastern bloc, few countries have undergone as rapid a transformation as Kazakhstan. Once the dumping ground for ethnic minorities that Stalin found inconvenient, and later a testing ground for the Soviet Union's most unpalatable weapons systems, the country has moved so fast to privatised modernisation that signs of a hankering for the old ways are evident.

If the Kazakhs give the impression that they are trying to transform themselves too quickly, it is hardly surprising given the world demand for the country's oil, gas and numerous other mineral resources. Scarcely a single developed Western country is unrepresented among the legions of business people flying into Almaty, the capital, and few Asian countries, either. Almost 100 companies are represented at a two-day investment conference starting today in London, an indication of the interest being shown in the potential of this country at the crossroads of Europe and Asia.

President Nazarbayev has shown great skill in maintaining the unity of the country during the post-Communist period when anti-Russian feeling could easily have split over into clashes between Kazakhs and Russians, who have played such a large part in the country's economy. He is also one of the few leaders to negotiate successfully the transition from Communism through his standing in what is essentially a tribal society. He enjoys overwhelming support in the presidency, which is contested every five years.

Britain and America are in the forefront of the drive to develop Kazakhstan's oil resources as a complementary source of supply to the Middle East.

In world terms, the Central Asian states' reserves are still a fraction of those in the Middle East. Kazakhstan's proven reserves are eight billion barrels, according to British Petroleum, compared to Iran's 93 billion and Iraq's 112 billion. But Kazakhstan's position and its strategic potential make it attractive to Western governments. Advanced technology in oil re-

To bring in Western money the Government has been willing to create laws to deal with the new reality

covery allows Western countries to gain a quick foothold in an area starved of modern industrial technology and Western interest and capital for more than 50 years. Equally, for the West, the potential benefits of making friends on the periphery not only of the old Soviet empire but on the edge of its Chinese equivalent are obvious.

To bring in Western money and expertise, the Government of Kazakhstan has been willing to create laws to deal with the new reality often with frightening speed and simplicity of approach. This can be risky: the Government could change its mind just as quickly.

Some see the return of the old system of centralisation through this arbitrary, extra-legal approach. New investors should take care to understand what they are dealing with before making financial commitments. This becomes even more advisable because the

Government is now taking the South-East Asian "tiger" economies as its model, with the concurrent desire to place economic progress above everything else. As a result, inflation was allowed to accelerate to four figures at one stage, with a consequent disastrous effect on living standards.

This tendency to disregard the lot of the ordinary worker is nowhere more evident than in the grandiose plans to move the capital from Almaty to Akmola at the turn of the century. There is a certain logic in moving the state capital to an area that is now Russian-dominated as a means of better uniting the multi-farious ethnic groups. But the estimated cost is \$1 billion.

Akmola, a farming town in mosquito-ridden fields, seems an unlikely prospect as a capital. But President Nazarbayev seems determined to go ahead – and unwilling to acknowledge that his Government is presently unable even to meet salaries and pensions in full. The problem is that the President is offering tax incentives to those willing to contribute, as indeed he is to foreign investors. This is having a detrimental effect on the budget, itself the beneficiary of a \$450 million credit line from the International Monetary Fund. The credit is dependent on the containment of project costs at \$500 million.



A traditional Kazakh hunter releases his specially trained eagle

Signs of life stir in the economy

As trade routes open up, foreign investors are coming in. Ahmed Rashid reports

Since gaining independence seven years ago, landlocked Kazakhstan has been desperately seeking exit routes for its vast oil, gas and mineral resources. But creating trade routes has been the hardest task, thanks to wars in Afghanistan and the Caucasus to the south, a difficult Russia, which wants to restrain Kazakhstan's growth, to the west, and problems with China over their common border.

And since independence, the Central Asian Republics have suffered from low growth, high inflation and a decline in industrial output compared with when they were part of the Soviet Union.

But Kazakhstan may

be about to turn the corner: it is showing the first signs of economic growth since the Soviet Union broke up, and is opening up trade routes to the west and the east, while the rapid privatisation of the economy has encouraged European, American and Japanese investors.

Earlier this year, the Finance Minister, Aleksandr Pavlov, said Kazakhstan was slowly achieving economic stability. Industrial output grew by 0.3 per cent in 1996, compared with an 8 per cent fall in 1995 and even larger drops right after independence. Mr Pavlov expects gross domestic product (GDP), which stood at 1.41 trillion tenge (\$18 billion) in 1996, would grow to 1.74 trillion tenge in 1997.

In June government leaders told a conference for foreign investors that inflation, now 17 per cent, would be reduced to 10 per cent in 1998, and that 80 per cent of the country's enterprises had been privatised. The privatisation of the main industrial assets, farmland and even shops has been helped by loans and expertise from the European Community. The new stock market has been a great success with frequent cancellations of signed contracts with Western companies. There are also complaints about corruption.

Nevertheless, with high inflation and unemployment, many still face hardship. Tens of thousands of people, especially in the mining sector, went on strike during the 1996-97 winter because of unpaid wages and pensions totalling \$800 million. The Government has since paid off much of the backlog thanks to recently signed oil deals.

President Nazarbayev has said one way to cut costs would be to reduce the one million bureaucrats who rule a population of 17 million. To this end, he sacked thousands of government employees in May.

Kazakhstan's economic future depends on the exploitation of its oil and gas reserves and it is this area which has attracted foreign investors in recent months, as hopes rise that pipelines can now be built eastward and westward, ending the country's long isolation.

The new stock market has been a great success

BALANCE SHEET

	1995	96	97*
Total GDP (\$bn):	-	19.1	20.6
GDP % change (constant prices):	-8.9	+1.4	+2.8
Industrial output % change:	-7.9	+0.5	+1.2
Agricultural output % change:	-21.3	0.0	+1.0
Consumer prices % change (end year):	+60.3	+40.1	+29.0
Consumer prices % change (annual av):	+176.3	+51.1	+35.0
Broad money % change (end year):	+116.0	+70.0	n/a
Average wages % change:	+70.5	+23.0	n/a
Total trade balance (\$bn):	-0.2	-0.6	n/a
Exports (\$bn):	5.2	5.4	n/a
Imports (\$bn):	5.4	6.0	n/a
Foreign direct investment (\$m):	723	860	n/a
Unemployment rate %:	2.4	3.5	n/a
Proved oil reserves (billion barrels)	At end 1996: 8.0		
Proved natural gas reserve (trn m ³)	At end 1996: 1.84		
*Projection			

Sources: EBRD; BP Statistical Review of World Energy 1997

KAZAKHOIL

Playing its role in nation building

Production and Refining of Hydrocarbons

KAZAKHOIL is the largest oil and gas company operating in the Republic of Kazakhstan. During the first half of 1997, enterprises of the company produced more than 10 million tons oil, 1 million tons of condensate and 2,732 BCM of gas. Subsidiaries and joint ventures of the company are engaged in developing some of the best production projects and are well known outside of Kazakhstan. They include JSC Embamunaigas, JSC Tengizmunaigas, JV Tengizchevroil (with reserves of 1 billion tons of gas condensate), among others. The company's aggregate volume of oil reserves is more than 1.5 billion tons.

Marketing and Sales of Hydrocarbons

The company pays special attention to the organization of marketing and effective sales of products. Our department for project management and our subsidiary KAZAKHOIL-COMMERCIAL carry out special research of energy markets both in Kazakhstan and abroad. The company is also a major trader in Central Asia. Exports of the five largest enterprises affiliated in one way or another with the company amounted to 3.5 million tons of oil for the first half of 1997. KAZAKHOIL has set itself the goal of increasing sales of refined products. The company attaches special significance to its activity on Kazakhstan's internal market.

Combining subdivisions engaged in exploration, production, refining and sales of product, KAZAKHOIL is gradually acquiring the characteristics of a vertically integrated, multi-profile oil and gas company.

The program for Restructuring and Privatizing the Oil and Gas Sector.

As a result of the large scale privatization of the oil and gas sector being carried out in Kazakhstan, our company has become partners with major international firms. The division of functions between State-owned and private enterprises within the industry has been accomplished. At present, the structure of Kazakhstan's oil and gas sector meets international requirements and provides investors with a favorable environment in which to work. On the whole, approximately \$2.3 B have been invested in projects in which the company participates. Companies from the USA, Great Britain, Italy, Russia, France, Turkey and other countries are the main source of such investments. KAZAKHOIL is participating in the elaboration of a program for prospective development of oil and gas industry.

Management of Projects

The company represents and defends the State's interests by managing the State's portfolio of shares and its equity interests in such international projects as the Caspian Pipeline Consortium, as well as various joint ventures and production sharing agreements. In accordance with a government resolution, the company is charged with organizing investment tenders and conducting negotiations on exploration and production projects in Kazakhstan, including Kazakhstan's sector of the Caspian and the Aral Sea. KAZAKHOIL is also authorized to attract investments through securities operations.

The Resource Base

The Republic's established hydrocarbon reserves of category oil for 206 discovered fields amount to more than 6 billion tons of oil, 1.901 trillion cubic meters of gas and 944 million tons of gas condensate.

At present, 77 fields are under development with aggregate reserves of 5.17 billion tons oil, 1.528 trillion cubic meters of gas and 890 million tons of gas condensate.

The largest of these fields according to established reserves are Tengiz, Karachaganak, Kenbai, Zhanashol, Zhetyabai, Kalamkas, Karazhanbas, Uzen and Kunkol. Their aggregate reserves are 4.480 billion tons of oil, 1.448 trillion cubic meters of gas and 881 million tons of gas condensate. Projections for an increase in established oil reserves by the year 2005 amount to 15 billion tons.

The Republic's most prospective projects will involve development of Kazakhstan's sector of the Caspian offshore, where projected reserves of liquid hydrocarbons are estimated at 10 billion tons and investments in developing offshore fields should total \$150 B.

For more information about our activities, please contact us.

KAZAKHOIL

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An oil giant of the future

Ahmed Rashid discovers foreign investors competing for a share of the natural resources

Western and Asian oil companies have been flocking to Almaty to take up oil concessions as Kazakhstan aims to become the sixth largest oil producer in the world in the next century. With potential oil reserves of 95 billion barrels, eight billion of which are proven reserves, and more than four trillion cubic metres of gas reserves, not surprisingly Kazakhstan is being called the next Saudi Arabia.

After independence, American oil companies were the first to stake claims in Kazakhstan. Chevron and Mobil acquired the huge Tengiz field in western Kazakhstan, promising a potential ten-year investment programme of up to \$20 billion. But until this year, these companies were hampered by Russia in their efforts to build export pipelines across the former Soviet Union to get the oil to Europe and the Gulf.

However, on May 16, Kazakhstan signed a landmark contract with Oman, Russia and several Western oil companies, including British Gas, to build a \$2 billion, 1,500-kilometre pipeline from Tengiz to the Black Sea. Russia agreed to the project only after its oil companies were given a large stake in it.

Asian companies have also moved in quickly. In June, China's National Petroleum Company (CNPC) beat the American companies Texaco and Amoco to win a major oil concession in which CNPC would invest about \$4 billion in the Atyubinsk oil enterprise, taking a 60 per cent share.

The Kazakhs received a signature bonus (a cash bonus on signing the contract) of \$320 million from the Chinese, which the Government said would go towards paying off the backlog in unpaid salaries and pensions. China also promised to build a pipeline from the concession to Xinjiang in eastern China and said that it would help Kazakhstan build a pipeline to

the Gulf through Iran. Last month, CNPC won a tender giving it 60 per cent of the huge Uzen oil field, also in western Kazakhstan. CNPC promised an immediate investment of \$400 million out of a total projected investment of \$1.3 billion and paid Kazakhstan a \$52 million signature bonus.

However, this summer, global interest in Kazakhstan's energy resources accelerated at a remarkable pace. The reason was that in July the US Administration for the first time said that it would not block or impose sanctions on a proposed gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Turkey that would traverse northern Iran. Oil companies have been barred from investing in Iran or building pipelines through it, because of the threat of American sanctions. Suddenly an opening through Iran offers Kazakhstan a viable route to the Gulf which avoids Russia.

Although possibly premature, leaders in Central Asia now presume that the Americans would not block multiple pipeline routes for their energy resources through Iran.

The shortest possible way from Kazakhstan to the Gulf is through Iran. All political barriers have been removed.

President Nazarbayev said in

Kuwait earlier this month, in answer to possible American objections to a pipeline to the Gulf. During his visit to three Gulf states, President Nazarbayev said that Kuwait would also help his country to extend oil and gas pipelines to the Gulf through Iran.

Last month Texaco at last

won approval to acquire a 20

per cent stake in the

Karachaganak oil and gas

field from Britain's BG Explora-

tion and Production and Italy's Agip, both of which will

reduce their stakes.

Meanwhile Asian com-

panies are moving in fast to

bid for oil and gas concessions.

Indonesian, Malaysian and

several Japanese companies

have already set up shop in

Almaty. Indonesia's Medco

group and Japan's Mitsui have taken a stake in the Mangistauynaigaz production association in western Kazakhstan and are planning to invest more than \$4 billion during the next 20 years. Asian companies could move Central Asia towards its natural direction, which is towards Asia. Moreover Asian com-

panies are unfettered by the sanctions and political restraints faced by American companies.

However, Russia's powerful national gas company Gazprom reacted angrily to these deals, first cutting off the supply of gas to Kazakhstan's domestic users from gas fields in Siberia — a move that created an acute domestic summer crisis for the Govern-

ment. Gazprom's chief executive Rem Vyakhirev said that he would not let Kazakhstan export gas through Russian pipelines. "Under no circumstances will Kazakhstan export gas through Russia," he added.

"To give up one's market ...

would be, at the very least, a crime before Russia," he added.

Russia then made it difficult for Kazakhstan and Western oil companies to continue development of the massive Karachaganak oil field, by not allowing the companies involved to use Russian pipelines to export oil and gas, as promised by Gazprom.

Meanwhile Kazakhstan is

also rapidly privatising its ageing gas and oil pipeline system and refineries in an attempt to bring in foreign investment and new technology. Kazakhstan also plans to build several new oil refineries. In June, Belgium's Tractebel won a \$630 million contract to manage Kazakhstan's 9,000-kilometre gas pipeline system for 15 years, for which Kazakhstan received another \$30 million as a signature bonus.

It remains to be seen, however, whether Iran will prove a viable exit route for Kazakhstan energy. Only when that happens will the Kazakhs be assured that Western investment in other industrial fields, such as development mineral resources, will follow.

David Rudnick pinpoints the growth sectors

OPPORTUNITIES for private-sector investment in Kazakhstan abound and Western companies are responding.

The sector most in need of investment is energy. The Government admits there are chronic shortages and that \$500 million-\$600 million (£314 million-£377 million) is needed annually to build new generating plant. Accordingly, the privatisation programme is focusing on the electricity grid and gas pipeline, which the Government is living off to foreign companies.

In April, it awarded a 25-year concession to Asea Brown Boveri (ABB), the Swedish-Swiss engineering group, to operate the electricity grid. ABB beat the UK's National Grid for the deal, but had to agree to pay huge wage arrears, invest a minimum of \$200 million in the next three years, and pocket a mere 15 per cent of net profits (85 per cent going to the Kazakhstan exchequer).

The electricity supply industry is suffering from the debt crisis affecting the whole economy. Enterprises owe and are owed enormous sums, and how much of these liabilities would have to be met by foreign investors is an open question. Undeterred, ABB is building three 320MW power stations in Kazakhstan and plans more.

Turning from electricity to gas, the Argentine oil company Bridas is negotiating a 15-year concession to operate Kazakhstan's natural gas pipeline. But the search continues for investors willing to fund an \$80.7 million project to build gas and turbine plants in the Atyubinsk region. An estimated \$125 million is being sought from foreign investors to upgrade the pipeline.

The Government believes that telecommunications offer investors lower risk and quicker returns. Local telephone lines serve only 2.1 million users, although a further five million of Kazakhstan's 16.4 million people are potential customers. But increasing the number of telephone lines on this scale will cost several hundred million dollars and soak up substantial foreign capital.

Kazaktelecom, the national joint-stock telecommunication company, is owed about \$100 million by its customers and itself owes almost DM500 million for equipment bought in Germany seven years ago. Investors would inherit these debts.

Chance to invest in new markets

the absence of an integrated national market, where prices are known to all producers and consumers, that day may still be some way off.

Farmers' co-operatives after the Western pattern would be an improvement, but starting them up would be costly and demand a considerable injection of capital.

But companies are not exactly queuing to invest in Kazakhstan's agri-business. The epitome of old-style Soviet collectivism, agri-business retains a monopolistic character that puts most Western companies off.

Apart from Philip Morris,

which acquired the state to-

bacco monopoly in 1994 on

condition that it invested in

Chimkent, there has been little interest.



President Nazarbayev's policies have cleared the way for drilling in the Caspian

Perform, or no portfolio

The Government has taken action to restore confidence in the banking system. David Rudnick reports

A healthy banking system is critical for Kazakhstan's stable development, and steps are being taken to put banking on an even keel after the hyper-inflationary shocks of recent years.

Inflation of 1,250 per cent has caused an understandable aversion to saving. The ratio of bank deposits to gross domestic product in Kazakhstan is one of the lowest in the world, as is its savings rate of barely 5 per cent.

The Government must rebuild confidence in the banking system, battered by the related crises of payments arrears and corporate insolvency. To this end, in January it passed legislation allowing it to acquire the shares of

bankrupt or underperforming banks hit by bad loans to enterprises ensnared in the debt crisis. Two of Kazakhstan's biggest banks, Turan Bank and Alera Bank, which together account for about 20 per cent of all sector loans, were nationalised (temporarily, it was hoped) and then merged to cut operating costs. Their subsequent recapitalisation by the National Bank (central bank) has provided a shot in the arm.

The Government's takeover of the two banks and subsequent classification of their portfolios as non-standard may have frozen their loans to an alarming number of enterprises, but the international financial community has hailed it as a step in the right direction.

Ron Freeman, of the investment bank Salomon Brothers, believes the move has encouraged management to resolve the problems in their loan portfolios for fear of being taken over by the Government under the new law.

Another banker adds:

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Accept manages

Sam Mendes's stunning Shakespeare at the National; strange Eastern rituals in the East End; Romanians in Bristol

Dark deeds played to thrill

The tragedy begins with Brabantio being roused from his bed in Venice, and ends with his daughter and son-in-law dead on theirs in Cyprus. Both are night-time scenes, and every other scene occurs at night or can plausibly be shown as happening then. In the dark, dark deeds are done.

In Sam Mendes's thrilling production the nocturnal dangers are given another sinister turn of the screw by being set in enclosed spaces. Anthony Ward's permanent design of heavy wooden blinds, beyond and above a deep veranda, trap the characters as if in a cul de sac.

This sense of a psychological imprisonment is further reinforced by Paul Pyant's unnerving lighting. His shadows build up tension as powerfully as in the masterworks of German silent film. Iago's profile opens and shuts its mouth against a pillar; the shadows of an overhead fan whirl around Othello's head as he sinks irreversibly into his madness. These are not passing tricks but the outward expression of inward states.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Othello Cottesloe

He gives his face an expression of mean cynicism while the eyes are alert to how his phrases are received. His voice makes use of the mocker's trick of evacuating breath on a word to point the follies of all pretension — and all honour too. And there is devoted sadism in his final scene with Claire Skinner's Desdemona.

With her figure delicate enough to excite the soldiery, Skinner gives us a girl whose truth of feeling never departs from her. The body may appear frail but the voice is firm: no milk-sop, though inexperience has set bounds to her understanding.

The speech of David Harewood's strongly built Moor emphatically separates his two characters: the spouter of rhetoric, and the man in whom "those soft parts of conversation" are so lacking that he breaks his sentences into single words. At times this becomes a mannerism but over Desdemona's dead body his voice exposes real pain. He has recovered his wits but lost his world.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Parables without purpose

YOU can't miss the sense of event that hovers like joss-stick incense over the National Theatre Studio/Indosa staging of Gita Mehta's *A River Sutra*. The venue is largely to blame. Finding this strange 18th-century warehouse on an island in the East End proves as much a pilgrimage as the Narmada River is to the characters of Mehta's novel.

Rosa Maggiori's 40ft set taps superbly into the atmospherics. A river of lights sparkles against the brickwork. A rocky bank, framed on either side by a gashouse and a temple, dominates the space. The audience are scattered on cushions; a lucky few hog benches at the back; the unlucky many, out on wings, have terrible sightlines.

What unfolds is a series of stories that hinge around Sam Dastor's retired civil servant

A River Sutra Three Mills Island Studios

who owns the gashouse. Having renounced the city in search of peace he puzzles over the mystic grip of the river, a symbol of lust and absolution. Never has renunciation seemed such a middle-class sport. Dastor's benign Hindu makes chaste small-talk with Scott Ransome's unconvincing postman. One expects cucumber sandwiches to start appearing. Instead, a Jain monk (Andrew Mallett) happens by, and we see his life story enacted as a dreamy sketch.

The monk, it transpires, has abandoned his diamond fortune to "live in the world". Suitably horrified, Dastor's

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

civil servant consults the local wise man (Talat Hussain), who tells him the story of an impoverished musician, his nagging wife, and the discovery of a blind beggar boy with the voice of an angel. So it goes: small parables sprouting organically from the compost of Tanika Gupta's wholesome adaptation.

The Roald Dahl twists, which inspire spiritual angst in the civil servant, old little for me. It's all very pastoral, slow-moving and unbelievable. The actors rarely succeed in inhabiting their parts and the mixed casting sometimes makes Indhu Rubasingham's production look like the last days of the Raj rather than the intended celebration of religious diversity.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Simon Russell Beale is an unforgettable Iago, "his face an expression of mean cynicism", in the National's *Othello*



Hearts in chains

HOW little we know of how other people live, how little we know of those we have loved, and what scant attention we pay to whoever tries to shift our feelings. Jeremy Kingston writes. These are some of the themes Lin Coghlan's characters illustrate as they learn from each other that insularity may start as defence but can turn into a prison.

A preview on this page last week told some of the background to this pioneering co-production by the BOV, Clear Day Productions and Teatru

With Love From Niccolae

Bristol Old Vic

Dramatic, *Constanta*, Romania's Black Sea port. The play is set in Constanta, partly on the seashore but mainly in the house and garden of a family whose favoured son, Niccolae, defected to England. In London his warm-heartedness permanently captivated an Irish woman, Maggie, so that long after he has left her, seemingly to return home, she reveres his memory.

Her 17-year-old son Nicky is sick of hearing about him. Reluctantly he accompanies her on a journey to discover his father's family, and in Constanta a healing and liberating process begins.

Coghlan confidently weaves allegory into her story. A dying birch tree leans to one side of Carmencita Brojboiu's magically suggestive set: planted by Niccolae, it is passionately protected by his sister, Iuliana (Monica Mihescu). On the opposite side a hen-house perches: to relieve the hens' imprisonment Iuliana's young daughter Gabi (Medea Marinescu) has stuck pictures on its inside walls. Metaphorical prisons have enclosed them all.

Of course Maggie's idol does not have feet of gold, but Nicola Redmond's performance shows us how anxiously she has needed such an idol. Philip Osment's direction smoothly moves the focus across the group, now gathering its members around the table, now separating them into smaller units. Liviu Manolache's music adds an other-worldly thrill.

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Ulysses journeys up north

The actor David Threlfall explains his new role: a Lancastrian version of Homer's wanderer

David Threlfall has "played Greek" on stage once before, and the title of a new comedy by Richard Hope may mislead you into thinking he is about to play it again. Ten years ago, at the Manchester Royal Exchange, he was the king who kills his father and marries his mother, but the bloody catharsis of *Oedipus Rex* is a world away from his mock heroic character in Hope's *Odyssey Thump*.

Hope, writer in residence at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, has produced a kind of northern *Ulysses*, following in Joyce's footsteps by transforming an ordinary man into a 20th-century incarnation of Homer's wanderer. Instead of Leopold Bloom in Dublin, 1904, we have Norman Nestor (Threlfall) in Falsworth, Lancs, 1997.

During a weekend of reflection and heavy drinking, Norman — late fifties, unemployed and unhappily married — stumbles through a series of encounters, by turns comic and moving, with characters whose mythic equivalents are clear: a Circe-like seductress, a one-eyed football ref called Horace Clapsy.

"The parallels with *Odyssey Thump* are there, and the set will reflect that Greek, mythic quality," says Threlfall. "But Richard wrote the play in homage to his late grandfather, not Homer, and in essence this is an optimistic piece about a man who realises he's reached a certain point in his life — and that realisation hits him like a truck."

While the accents and dialect of *Odyssey Thump* are Lancashire through and through, Threlfall, who grew up in Manchester, says Hope has steered clear of the brand of northern drama that tends to be "parochial and full of stupid people. You should feel that Norman's story could happen anywhere in the world."

Accent apart, Threlfall — lean, tall and even with a full beard, looking younger than 43 — might seem an improbable choice for the hapless, overweight Norman. A strap-on beer belly will flesh him out on stage, but Jude Kelly, who is directing *Odyssey Thump* in the Playhouse's Courtyard Theatre, told him she had

originally planned to cast one-year-old son, he speaks slowly and quietly, and gives off an air of unshakeable calm.

However, like anyone else who remembers Threlfall as Smike, in the RSC's *Nickleby*, or as Leslie Timms, the reptilian "hero" of John Mortimer's *Postponed*, Kelly has witnessed the absolute conviction with which he can inhabit vastly different characters. The son of a builder, he had an "unexciting" childhood in Burnage, the Manchester district Liam and Noel Gallagher also used to call home. He thought about becoming a footballer or an artist, until the lasting influence of his school drama teachers pushed him into acting.

Training at Manchester Polytechnic was followed by a role in the BBC's infamous borscht play, *Scum*. Then, in 1979, came the RSC, and Smike. Threlfall's performance as the lame, abused orphic, his body and speech heartbreakingly twisted, was astonishing. It earned him three awards at home, plus Tony and Emmy nominations for the Broadway transfer and the television recording, seen by almost two million viewers as part of Channel 4's first autumn schedule.

Married to "a wonderful woman", with whom he has a

the NBC mini-series of *Diana: Her True Story* or his unsuccessful attempt to break into Hollywood.

"Several years ago I went to LA to have a go at sitting around the pool — which simply means waiting for that big call to come. But I was just one of thousands trying to get a break."

He did manage to leave his mark on two major league movies, playing Sean Connery's M15 minder in *The Russia House*, and the hard-bitten Ulster cop murdered by Sean Bean's fugitive terrorist in *Patriot Games*.

"At my *Patriot Games* audition, I asked Philip Noyce, the director: 'Do you want a proper character — or do you just want someone to say the lines?' I can upset people by saying things like that. I don't mean to, I'm just trying to find out what's required."

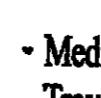
"I'd love to do a film like *Shine*, something that allows an actor to put the physicality of theatre on screen. But I'd rather do a play like *Odyssey Thump* than pick up crumbs off Hollywood tables. I love being in a room with actors and working things out. I trailed home from rehearsals a few nights ago thinking 'This is where I want to be.' In my blood I'm a theatre animal."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL

• *Odyssey Thump* preview at the Courtyard, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds (0113 215 7700) from today



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The boys are back in gowns

There are times when classical ballet just begs to be parodied. Who can watch the four cygnets in Act II of *Swan Lake* without marvelling at their potential hilarity? Who can follow the fantastic scenarios of many a 19th-century Russian ballet and not wonder at the absurdity of their storytelling? The artifice and convention of dance's "high art" leave it ripe for affectionate send-up. And no one knows this better than the all-male Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo.

They have been spoofing the form ever since 1974 when a group of ballet enthusiasts got together in New York to present a playful, entertaining view of classical ballet in parody form and in travesti. They started life "in the late-night shows in Off-Off Broadway lofts"; 23 years later they are an international fixture, sending audiences all over the world into fits of giggles. They have danced with Shirley MacLaine, with Kermitt and Miss Piggy; the Japanese love them so much they have to visit Japan each and every year to meet the demand.

The minute these hefty blokes put on tutus and pointe shoes they get a laugh — broad shoulders, hairy chests and big galumphing feet are not the usual attributes of a world-class ballerina. But the Trocks don't rely on cheap effect for their humour. There are pratfalls and pile-ups, silly faces

DANCE

Les Ballets Trockadero Peacock

and slapstick — the usual stuff of farce. Yet the 13 men also get our there and dance steps as the choreographer intended — well, almost — pirouetting fearlessly on pointe with all the conviction of a true ballerina.

Vanya Verikova (Brian Noris in real life) certainly believes she is the world's greatest Odette, God's gift to both Siegfried and the stage. Wearing a ferocious grin defined by lurid red lips, and with feet like seal flippers, she transforms Ivanov's beautiful and mournful heroine into a grotesque, come-hither-eyed tart. Around her prance a corps de ballet of six swans, a vicious pack of fractious birds no prince would want to encounter. And the can-can-cygnets are just as delightfully daft as you imagined they could be.

The Trocks perform all of Act II of *Swan Lake*; it is their signature work. And unlike Matthew Bourne, who famously gender-bent *Swan Lake* for his own artistic ends, the Trocks are, in a roundabout way, balleromimes paying homage to the past. How many other companies have *Esmeralda* and *Paquita* in

their repertoire these days? The boys of the Trocks love their Russian ballet, and they know their ballerinas (and, indeed, mimic their favourites shamelessly), but the secret of their success is that they can play to insiders and novices alike. You don't need to get the joke to appreciate the humour.

Sometimes you can even forget they are men. Marguerite Munden (Yvonne Manaua), for instance, gave us an *Esmeralda* so wonderfully modest on Tuesday night that just for a moment you could believe you were seeing the real thing.

Petipa's *Paquita*, which closed the evening, shows how much standards of performance have improved since the Trocks last appeared in London in 1988. They put their stronger technique to good use in the virtuous choreography, although I don't suppose anyone in the audience really noticed. They were too busy chuckling at Roland Deaulin's (it helps to say the name out loud) hilariously soused Cavalier and Fifi Barkova's wickedly accurate Ballerina (at least I think I guessed whom she was lampooning). The names on their passports, by the way, are David Teraut and Manolo Molina. And, yes, they did get flowers at the end, handed out by someone named Dacey Bussell.

DEBRA CRANE



Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo in action on Tuesday: "The minute these hefty blokes put on tutus and pointe shoes they get a laugh"

The veteran is still the best

PETER SCHREIER, a senior jury member at the weekend's International Song Competition, laid himself open to judgment only two days later in a recital accompanied by the jury's chairman, Graham Johnson.

One day we shall be convinced that Schreier is not eternal; but for the time being this elder statesman of Lieder sings on with the voice, sounding younger and healthier the longer the evening progresses.

Schreier's secret, at 62, is one which singers a third his age seem reluctant to learn. Every one who entered the competition should have been compelled to stay on for the German tenor's recital. They would have learnt that the ear must be as alert as the composer's own to every flicker of the poetry's pulse, and realised just how hard the imagination must work in order to fine-tune the voice and control both it and the audience.

Schreier sang Schumann's *Didi-der-liche* cycle like a man in his prime — which, of course, he is not. But the scaling of the voice's own shifting colours and capabilities to the expressive contours of the music can create a new perfection: in his case, the

RECITAL

Peter Schreier

Guthrie Hall

articulation of emotional fragility, of lightly inflected speech raised gently into song, of eloquent silences pierced by shafts of pain.

The pianist, of course, is part of the conspiracy. And in every thrilling second of this performance, Johnson was Schreier's alter ego, tormented by the relentless rhythm of the wedding dance, refracting the light of Heine's summer morning to surround one song's simple melody, only to break with the heel-click of reality into the total isolation of the soul in dream.

The second half of the evening seemed like an impromptu Schubertiad, with well-known yet shrewdly chosen songs of fugitive moods, of breath minutely threaded through words into melody. The ever-sharp blade of Schreier's tenor honed itself against every racing note of *Rastlose Liebe*, only to find total stillness in the perfectly controlled single soul-breathe of Goethe's *Wanderers Nachtid*.

HILARY FINCH

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Worth hearing
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Scottish Opera opened its season on Tuesday to the smell of fresh paint: its home, the Theatre Royal, is being refurbished thanks to grants from the Scottish Arts Council, the National Lottery, Historic Scotland and — I trust I haven't missed anyone out — Glasgow City Council. Gone is the dusty chocolate, and all is now a cheerful riot of cream, claret and gold, or will be when it is all finished.

What happened on stage was slightly less cheerful. *Norma* is inextricably associated with "great singing", from Pasta, who created the title role, to Callas, Sutherland and Caballé. Scottish Opera's four-year-old production was mounted for Jane Eaglen. If you can't cast it with great divas, or reasonable facsimiles thereof, is it wise for a company to

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OPERA

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■ BELLINI
La sonnambula
Oriongasa/Gimenez/Ellero d'Artegna/Netherlands Radio Chamber Orch/Zedda Naxos 8.660042-43 (two CDs) ★★ £11.99

THIS can lay claim to being the purest of *bel canto* operas, one reason why many singers avoid it. The vocal line is cruelly exposed for long stretches. And opera houses are wary of the wafer-thin plot concerning the habit of the heroine, Aminta, of sleepwalking over dangerous rooftops and rickety bridges. So all credit to Naxos for this concert performance with the Slovakian soprano, Luba Orongasa, giving a star display as Aminta.

She begins cautiously and her opening declaration of joy could do with more verve. But she grows rapidly with the opera, and full vocal fireworks are delivered in best Bellini style.

Raúl Giménez turns in one of his most graceful characterisations as Elvino, and he too displays plenty of musical flourish as his doubts Aminta's fidelity. When things are going better he and Orongasa weave their voices around each other with the most delicate thread.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ SHOSTAKOVICH
Symphony No 5
Chamber Symphony Op 110a Vienna PO/Jansons EMI CDC 5 56422 2 ★★★ £15.99

JUST what Shostakovich meant by the phrase "a Soviet artist's creative reply to just criticism", in relation to his Fifth Symphony, we cannot be sure. But it is certain that the work cannot be understood without reference to ironic undercurrents.

Mariss Jansons begins his account with such silky, smooth string playing from the cycle's temporary resting-place in the song *Pause* — as the protagonist takes the green ribbon from his fute to give to his beloved, only to reveal the bitter irony of his gesture in the spit-out words of *Der Jager* — exemplifies one of the many ways Skovhus has made this cycle very much his own, and a valuable contribution to the catalogue.

Worth hearing
Worth considering
Worth buying

Painting over the cracks

OPERA

Norma

Glasgow

stage it? To quote Buster Keaton, "pass".

Neither Penelope Walmesley-Clark (Norma) nor Anne Mason (Adalgisa) is blessed with a conventionally beautiful voice; both tired towards the end, and their tone grew increasingly strident. Walmesley-Clark has a commanding presence and a strong profile; she went through the motions efficiently, without quite achieving the heroic scale for the big scenery-chewing moments. Mason really believed in what she was doing, and acted from the heart.

Here, at least, were two good

singers doing as best they could, and that was infinitely preferable to the Pollione (Daniel Muñoz) and Oroveso (Danilo Rigosa), who bawled at a steady fortissimo in the worst tradition of the Italian provinces, and gestured accordingly in a depressing demonstration of the art of coarse operatic performance.

This was in sad contrast to the signals emanating from the pit,

whence that experienced Bellini conductor Julian Smith led a consistently absorbing musical performance, conjuring a real sense of drama out of the home-spun melodies. Not even the simplest accompaniment figure escaped his attention: everything was carefully, lovingly shaded, especially the sustained notes under pizzicatos or arpeggios. The orchestra responded with a will, and the chorus almost too lustily; Smith certainly found the violence in a score we think of as moonlight and mistletoe.

The same is true of Ian Judge's crisply organised production, in decor by John Gunter and Deirdre

Clancy full of strong colours. The sets regrouped into new locations more often than strictly necessary: why should Pollione be in such a hurry to leave his well-appointed study, complete with Julius Caesar in relief? Because he should, of course, be lurking in the Druids' temple at that point. It was either that or the curious alienating device of having stagehands periodically march on to shift the furniture around.

The main thing is, the audience was gripped by the work, by the tunes, by the scene when Norma decides not to kill her children (which can't fail), and by her public confession of guilt. So in the end Buster Keaton's "pass" won't quite do. The answer has to be, sort of, "yes".

RODNEY MILNES

REWARDING TIMES

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A not-so-heavenly choir

Look back at the past by all means: but denigrating Britain's achievements is no way to face the future, says Kenneth Baker

A group of left-wing historians want to knock Margaret Thatcher off the pedestal which they believe has been so lovingly constructed and embellished by right-wing historians. The broad thrust of the essays in this rag-bag, *From Blitz to Blair*, is that Thatcherism fostered greedy individualism, created an underclass, destroyed British manufacturing industry, split the North from the South and fostered the position of Euroscepticism. By spending too much on nuclear weapons, these works contend, Margaret Thatcher postured pretentiously on the world stage. But this book will not become a seminal text of the counter-revolution.

The best essay is on Attlee, for he needs no Socialist apologists, unlike Wilson and Callaghan. The essay on the Thatcher years, by Professor Hirst of Birkbeck College, is superficial and slipshod. He does not even mention the privatisation of BT, which was the template for the rest. Unprivileged, BT would not today be the third largest telecommunications company in the world. It would have remained snugly torpid in the public sector, like France Telecom. He then says that Mrs Thatcher was "lucky", to win the Falklands War. "Lucky", Professor Hirst? What about those qualities which seem to be unfamiliar to you — of character and willpower?

The difficulty for the Labour revisionists is that they have to show that Thatcherism was not needed because the 1970s were not a nasty damaging decade. They have to overlook the fact that union power brought down two Prime Ministers, and the editor of this polemic, Mr

Tiratsoo, even argues that the winter of discontent was due as much to bad British management as to the trade unions.

It is fortunate for new Labour, and for the country, that Tony Blair has rejected such drivell. He is building on Thatcherism, not pulling it down. He knows that privatisation works — rail consumer groups are already saying that services are better; he is not going to increase taxes on the middle classes, or scrap the union reforms and he has accepted the education reforms — national curriculum, tests, league tables, grant-maintained schools, student loans, and capped them with student fees. It must be very galling for the new revisionists to see that Tony Blair's abandonment of socialism was Mrs Thatcher's ultimate victory.

Roy Hattersley's *Prejudiced History* of the same period is a much more interesting, thorough and entertaining analysis. In 1992 he gave up active politics to make a lot of money by writing; there's nothing wrong in that, as Dr Johnson observed: only a blockhead would write for anything but money. He has revived the art of the political essay which expired in the 1930s: and every editor knows that Hattersley

is good for 800 words on anything by him.

This is a substantial book and it certainly isn't an apology for the failure of Labour governments. He distributes the blame between the parties though, not surprisingly, credits Labour with more decent principles. Hattersley's theme is that Britain, deluded by Empire, the special relationship with America, and "the uncertainty of the island race", did not sink itself into Europe. The biggest mistake was made by Clement Attlee in 1950 when he refused to join the European Coal and Steel Community, the forerunner of the European Union. His villains are therefore de Gaulle, Michael Foot and Margaret Thatcher, his heroes, Ted Heath, Roy Jenkins and Denis Healey. He has an arch swipe at the damascene

conversion of Neil Kinnock, who turned from a left-wing rebel to a European Commissioner, pro-compilation and nuclear deterrence.

Hattersley is an unabashed federalist: for him the United States of Europe is the only way forward. He has been consistent in this view, although as a Labour MP he fought the 1983 election on a manifesto commitment to withdraw from the euro but Blair will have to ensure that the euro does not become his albatross.

The trouble with both of these books is that they have to claim that the recent history of Britain has been one of decline, despair and defeat. As we approach the millennium, that view should be challenged. Today Britain is the seventh most competitive country in the world — the strong man of Europe, with declining unemployment, rising output, inflation contained and union power curtailed. Eighty per cent of our young people go on to further and higher education, and this year has seen the best results ever in GCSE and A-level exams. We have the soundest financial system of any developed country for dealing with the huge problem of paying pensions to future generations. Over the past 50 years, Britain has enjoyed a renaissance in classical and popular culture which has produced some of the world's greatest writers, poets, sculptors, artists, musicians and film-makers. Denigration of our recent past is no way to face the future.



Hattersley: older values

Tales traverse a continent

To anthropologise sub-Saharan Africa under the problematic rubric of the modern — as the title of this eclectic selection of black African short stories demonstrates — necessarily involves massive acts of exclusion and a burden on the material to match up continually to its titular promise.

Charles Larson has long been at the centre of the critical debate about what exactly constitutes the modern in contemporary African writing and here he lays down the tables of his definition, based on certain complementary and contesting precepts to do with taste, with Europe in Africa and with the African oral tradition of storytelling.

Wolf Soyinka's classic 1960 poem, *Telephone Conversation*, of black resignation colliding, sight unseen, against white hubris, prefaces the book. His fiction is, strangely, not included. In an essay from 1967 entitled *The Writer in a Modern African State*, Soyinka describes the then current state of the African writer as "a stage of disillusionment" after the exuberance of the covenant between writer and nation — that all the writer's skills should, in the new post-colonial situation, be devoted to the promotion of a collective ideal — is betrayed by corruption, coups and civil wars.

With Charles Larson's 27 stories (six by women, including the enduring *Bessie Head*) drawn from 16 countries, writers now have a proven history of persecution to add to their professional betrayal. One contributor, the Nigerian, Ken Saro-Wiwa, whose acid satire brightens this sombre book, was hanged by the military regime for his politics in 1995. In his detailed notes on each author, Charles Larson includes the gruesome fact that Saro-Wiwa's hangman only succeeded in killing him on the fifth attempt. Saro-Wiwa's epistolary tale, *Africa Kills Her Son*, written in 1989, is prophetic. The narrator is executed by the State.

Between Chinua Achebe's generation of writers and the newer generation headed by

Fred D'Aguiar

UNDER AFRICAN SKIES
Modern African Stories
Edited by Charles R. Larson
Payback Press, £14.99
ISBN 0 86241 715 5

the peace enforcers of the United States.

The stories from the Fifties and Sixties explore the colonial past and the colonial experience. They are well-crafted (Camara Laye of Guinea), if a little preachy (Birago Diop of Senegal), and still have a fresh feel. In the more recent fiction (Sindiwe Magona of South Africa and Veronique Tadio of Ivory Coast) history and geography combine with ethnicity to address blacks globally.

I miss the haunting voice of the late Zimbabwean writer, Dambudzo Marachera among the younger contributors, as well as his more senior countryman, Charles Mungoshi. Missing too are the eminent Chananians, Ayi Kwei Armah, Kofi Awoonor and Kojo Laing. Welcome though this handsome production is, in the pursuit of a tropical classical ideal, Charles Larson has been a little too stodgy.

Fred D'Aguiar's latest novel, Feeding the Ghosts, is published by Chatto & Windus, priced £14.99.



Paul Hogarth's Bemba Woman and Child. Northern Rhodesia, 1956. Of his model Hogarth wrote: "Not everyone gazed at white men with such good humour in this part of Africa. I drew her seated outside her house, chatting to neighbours in the late afternoon sun." From his autobiography, *Drawing on Life* (David Charles, £30)

Comeuppance from Down Under in Dickens of a book

THERE WAS a dismal January day in the year of 1818, and the yellow fog which had lain low all morning lifted a moment in the afternoon and then, as if the desolate pile of rock and stone thereby revealed was far too melancholy a sight to be endured, it descended again like a shroud around the walls of Newgate Prison.

So opens *Jack Maggs*, Jack Maggs, that is, by Tobias Oates, ambitious, nervous, absolutely magnetic young novelist who in 1837 is only just beginning to make his reputation. Tobias Oates, who has a florid style, a taste for luxury, a father in debt, a dull wife, a pretty sister-in-law for whom he nurses an illicit passion; Tobias Oates, who can stride all night through London's streets, who can write a novel in a lurching coach, whose childhood, coloured by sorrow and fear, makes him seek out poverty, despair and wretchedness and set down what he sees with his racing quill. He is a familiar — a

Erica Wagner

JACK MAGGS
By Peter Carey
Faber, £15.99
ISBN 0 571 19088 X

New South Wales to meet the boy he has made into a gentleman. But in that novel the boy's benefactor remains, even to the end, a shadowy figure. Abel Magwitch threatens young Pip on the marshes; even as he brings his protégé away from the blacksmith's forge he casts a shadow over his life which is never burnt away, and the life which the convict made for himself, both before and after his conviction, remains too in that shadow.

Carey looks to the other side of the world, his side of the world, for the centre of his novel, as Jack Maggs writes — backwards and in invisible

ink — the story of his damaged life to his dissolute protégé Henry Phipps, who shares with Pip only a disguised at the source of his fortune. This laborious task, the difficulty of which might be taken as a comment on the struggle to bring this voice of early Australia into the open, is interwoven with the young Oates' encounters with "the huge and haunted engine of Jack Maggs": the novelist wrests his story from him by means of hypnotic magnetism, making fiction into theft.

Carey's prose, as ever, is burnished to a high shine. Sulphurous, smoky London, its streets clogged with horse-dust and refuse, its river trailed with slime and sewage, crowds the reader as it crowds Jack Maggs, fled from the clean sun of New South Wales. And yet this is not pastiche: the distinction between Oates and Carey is clear, and the novel is filled with the small observations that make Carey's work so poignantly memorable. Tobias's sister-in-law,

her affection for him faltering, sees how, as he leans against the fireplace, the mantel was too tall for him, and how he stretched to accommodate himself to its demands. It was a vision most profoundly discouraging, and one she wished to God she had not seen.

But closing the book I recalled hearing Carey read its opening chapter aloud at the Hay Festival last year. When he had finished, a member of the audience asked him why he had chosen to set his novel in 1837. Carey looked startled, slightly alarmed, and said quietly: "I'd rather not answer that question." It is a question that still hangs in my mind. *Jack Maggs* is a fine novel, more than just an entertainment, and yet it seems too dependent on the conceit that props it up. Without Dickens, could I have pictured Oates? Without Magwitch, Maggs? Carey is good enough to stand alone, and in the end I wished he had.

Pistols at the parsonage

Ian McIntyre

THE BRONTES
A Life in Letters
By Juliet Barker
Viking, £20
ISBN 0 670 87211 1

must, till death, call my wife," a phrase which Barker marshals in support of her view that the relationship was sexual. She also convincingly knocks on the head a recent feminist interpretation of a letter to Southey from Charlotte which argued that she was being sarcastic at the Poet Laureate's expense.

George Eliot wished the characters in *Jane Eyre* "would talk a little less like the heroes and heroines of police reporters". It is not something she could have said about the Brontë sisters' letters. Juliet Barker says that when she was at work, on her biography she was struck by their eloquence and immediacy. But that raised a problem familiar to anyone who has attempted a scholarly life. "The discipline of the biographer is a formal and the absolute necessity of including only apposite quotations meant that, reluctantly and at times, belligerently, I felt obliged to omit passages of quite outstanding lyricism or humour or interest."

Hence this volume of letters. It is principally on Charlotte that the spotlight falls, because most of the letters are hers. Juliet Barker has also, however, drawn skilfully on Emily and Anne's diary papers to plug gaps in the correspondence.

I particularly liked Mrs Gaskell's alarming discovery, while visiting the parsonage, that when Mrs Brontë dressed in the morning, his watch was not the only thing he popped into his pocket. "There was this little deadly pistol, sitting down to breakfast with me, kneeling down to prayers at night — to say nothing of a loaded gun hanging up on high ready to pop off in the slightest emergency."

Several important letters have come to light since the publication of *The Brontës*. Barker is now able to demonstrate, for example, that previous biographies were wrong in suggesting that Branwell attended the Royal Academy. In some previous editions many letters have been carelessly transcribed or heavily edited. The fuller version of a letter Branwell wrote in October 1845, published here, refers to the wife of his employer, Mr Robinson as "one whom I

Brussels pension: "Sometimes he borrows the lineaments of an insane Tom-cat, sometimes of a delirious Hyena." It was gratifying to learn that some of the love scenes in *Jane Eyre* had made the great Thackeray cry, but: "Critics, it appears to me, do not know what a n' intellectual boor-constrictor" he is.

Relatives come visiting from the South of England: "They reckon to be very grand folks indeed," she tells a friend. "To my eyes they seem to be an attempt to play the great Mogul down" in Yorkshire. Up in London, she hears Cardinal Wiseman speak: "He came swimming into the room smiling, simpering, and bowing like a fat old lady," she writes to her father. "He spoke in a smooth whining manner, just like a canting Methodist preacher."

Danger. You are entering an intellectual hard-hat area. Belligerent Yorkshirewoman working overhead.

THE TIMES/DILLONS BOOKER FORUM

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YOU ARE INVITED to an evening of readings and discussion with five of the shortlisted authors for this year's Booker Prize. This Times/Dillons forum will be held on Monday, October 13. Chaired by Peter Stothard, the Editor of *The Times*, the forum is an opportunity to participate in the award. The six nominations are:

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Europe, by Tim Parks (Secker & Warburg, £9.99).

The Essence of the Thing, by Madeleine St John (Fourth Estate, £9.99).

The God of Small Things, by Arundhati Roy (Flamingo, £15.99).

The forum will be held at Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster London SW1P 3NZ, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50) include an audio cassette featuring four- to five-minute extracts from each of the books and information about the six authors. Subject to demand, the event will be interpreted by sign language.

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■ THE VILLA Principe Leopoldo, overlooking Lake Lugano in Switzerland, has a two-night programme "Lugano Evasion" from Monday to Friday until the end of the year at £203 per room per night for double occupancy. The offer, through Prima Hotels, includes one evening meal per person. Details: 0800 181535.

■ A £9 REDUCTION off any two-day ticket to Alton Towers is included in a special half-term offer through Golden Rail, on October 24, of two nights' accommodation at either the Nottingham or Derby Novotel. Cost is £99 per room up to two adults and two children. Details: 0161 2385200.

■ THE FOUR-STAR Golden Valley Thistle Hotel in Cheltenham has a health and beauty break at £179 per person for two nights' half-board accommodation including massage, facial, manicure and make-up lesson. Details: 01242 232691.

■ THE SAVOY HOTEL London, is reviving the heyday of the Big Band era with Saturday night dinner dances, featuring the Piccadilly Dance Orchestra with tunes from the Twenties, Thirties and Forties. Cost is £40 per person. Details: 0171-420 2608.

■ GUESTS staying on a three-night Classic Collection weekend package at Brown's Hotel in Mayfair, at a rate of £190 per room per night, get the Sunday night at half price until the end of the year. Details: 0171-493 6020.

■ THE CHOICE Hotels group in Europe has just published its directory of more than 350 hotels, including 60 in the UK, operating under brand names such as Clarion Quality and Comfort Inns. The free guide includes location maps of the hotels and information on local attractions and landmarks. Details: 0800 444444



A fruit seller in Hué typical of the sights on view on two fortnight-long mountain bike tours of central Vietnam available from Symbiosis Expedition Planning in December. Priced from £1,245 a person, including B&B, quality bikes, support vehicle, maintenance service and local guides; flights extra. Details: 0171-924 5906.

FLIGHTS

PRICES in British Airways latest world offers include US destinations between £179 and £199; Dubai at £399; Cape Town £459; Singapore £397. Details: 0345 221111.

■ VIRGIN Atlantic's riposte is to shave £1 off BA's transatlantic prices. New York return costs from £178 with Los Angeles priced from £298. Details: 01293 747245.

■ AIR Tickets Direct has a £125 Stansted-Milan excursion flying with Air UK. Details: 0990 320321.

■ HALF-PRICE business-class fares to Sydney and Melbourne from London or Manchester are available with Austria's Lauda Air between November and December 10. The Travelbug charges £1,085.

return with stopovers allowed in Vienna and Kuala Lumpur. Details: 0161-740 8948.

■ RETURN Alitalia flights to Bangkok cost £383, with Johannesburg priced at £340 and Hong Kong at £426 through Lupus Travel. Details: 0171-306 3000.

■ TICKETS for Southwest can now be bought in the UK. The cut-price no-frills US airline services 51 cities in 25 states coast to coast. Depending on the route a one-way ticket costs between £49 and £83. Details: 01293 596677.

■ GULFAIR has extended its special deals. Excursion fares to the Gulf start at £399 while full-fare passengers can take along a companion free of charge. Details: 0171-408 1717.

SWANSEA Cork Ferries has a special weekend return fare of £139, available until December 15. The price includes a crossing for a car and up to five adults on a Thursday and Friday, returning from Cork on or before the following Monday. Details: 01792 450110.

■ IRISH Ferries Holidays has departures in September and October from £169.50 per person, which will include three nights' B&B in Connemara and two in Dublin, as well as a ferry crossing from Pembroke to Dublin. The price is based on four people travelling. Details: 0990 170000.

■ SCANDINAVIAN Seaways is offering eight-night self-catering holidays in Germany from £184 per person, leaving Harwich on September 22. The price is based on four travelling and includes ferry. Details: 0900 333111.

■ HOVERSPEED has begun a Liverpool to Dublin ferry service (Seacat on Wednesdays). Prices are £115 for a car and two adults, and £88 for foot passengers — both five-day returns. Details: 0145 523523.

■ STENA Line is offering £50 discounts on selected self-catering ski holidays booked before October 18. Brochure prices start at £37 each for eight adults sharing an apartment in La Clusaz, France. The price includes ferry crossing for two cars. Details: 0990 747474.

Germany from £184 per person, leaving Harwich on September 22. The price is based on four travelling and includes ferry. Details: 0900 333111.

■ GREECAN GEMS cruises sailing from Venice for a week from September 27 and October 18 are available from £490 a person from Seafarer Cruises. Price includes full board and flights from the UK. Details: 0171-244 0500.

■ BARBADOS for a fortnight for £549 a person with a flight from Gatwick on October 5 and room-only accommodation is on offer from Somak Holidays. Details: 0171-423 3000.

■ SINGLES weeks in Cyprus from December 10 and January 24 next year are on offer from £331 a person from Argo Holidays. Price includes accommodation and dinner at Atlantica Hotel, Limassol, activities and flights from a choice of UK airports. Details: 0171-331 7070.

HOLIDAYS

■ UMBRIAN apartments close to Lake Trasimeno are available at a 20 per cent saving until the end of September with Room Service. A week's self-catering including flights now costs from £195 a person: an apartment sleeping six costs £189 a week, flights extra. Details: 0171-636 0888.

■ TUNISIA for a fortnight's all-inclusive holiday for £399 a person with half-board and a flight from Gatwick on Sunday is on offer from Co-op Travelcare. Details: 0541 500388.

■ FUERTEVENTURA for a fortnight's self-catering is available for £179 a person from Lunn Poly. Fly from Gatwick next Wednesday. Details from the company's Holiday Shops.

■ AUTUMN savings of up to £20 a person are on offer until the end of the year from Hayes & Jarvis, with a week in Cuba costing from £389 a person and a week's cruising in the Maldives from £689. Prices include return flights. Details: 01727 837100.

■ ISRAEL's first all-inclusive hotel, the Lagoon in Eilat, will be available from £429 for adults and £359 for children from October 26 with Destination Red Sea. Flights from Gatwick on Sundays. Details: 0181-440 9900.

■ SRI LANKA for a fortnight for £660 a person staying in the colonial Mount Lavinia hotel, the former Governor's residence overlooking the sea near Colombo, is available from November 4 to December 2 from Somak Holidays. Flights from Gatwick. Details: 0181-423 3000.

■ TURKEY at half-term is available from Tapestry Holidays with a week's self-catering at Turunc Bay and a week's B&B at Olu Deniz both costing £349 a person, including flights from Gatwick or Manchester on October 19. Details: 0171-742 0055.

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Racing trips are under orders

By ROBERT WRIGHT

A NEW travel company aims to bring the pleasures of horse racing to newcomers to the sport, as well as providing organised days out for the experienced racegoer.

Winning Breaks offers visits to stables and the gallops as well as race days. The company says the trips should answer questions such as "Which enclosure do I go into? How do I place a bet?" which can put newcomers off going racing.

By limiting numbers to 15 each weekend, it hopes to achieve a house-party atmosphere. The cost of each weekend break will vary depending on hotel costs and the quality of the racing, but the first weekend, at Newmarket from October 3 to 5, is £295.

Racegoers will stay at the Rutland Arms, in the centre of the town, for two nights, with breakfast and dinner. Transport to the races, entry to the members' enclosure and trips to the gallops, a racing stable, the National Horse Racing Museum and the National Stud are all included.

• Winning Breaks 0171 586 2162



Booking system will boost Eurostar

EUROSTAR is introducing a reservations system, Elgar, to increase passenger numbers to Paris by 50 per cent. Steve Keenan writes. It is already available to 4,000 travel agents in the UK and is intended to match the distribution power of competing airlines.

The system – also able to book domestic UK rail travel – will be available to travel agents overseas and on the Internet. Hotel, coach travel and car rental booking will also be added.

The system has been designed by Eurostar UK. Ian Brooks, executive

commercial director, says: "From now on, we are starting to compete on an equal footing with the airlines."

When Eurostar services began nearly three years ago, airlines carried four million passengers between London and Paris and 1.2 million on the Brussels route. Eurostar, which has developed the total air-rail market to six million and 2.2 million respectively, has about 50 per cent of the markets.

Agents overseas will also be able to book Eurostar in advance, which is particularly significant for the Asian and American markets. One in ten leisure travellers on Eurostar is Ameri-

cans. The company is also banking on a further boost to business when a high-speed rail line opens in Belgium in December, cutting journey times to Brussels by more than half an hour to two hours, 40 minutes.

Machines enabling travellers to insert a credit card and receive a ticket at Waterloo station will be introduced in December. Restrictions allowing travellers to book only two months in advance are also being ended by December, to allow 330-day advance booking.

Windfalls take the ski season to a peak

By JOANNA BALE

RECORD numbers of skiers are preparing to head for the snows of Europe and the US this year, many spending windfall cash from the building societies to take advantage of the strength of the pound against major currencies.

Tour operators across the country have been surprised by the surge in demand, which has already led to increases of up to 500 per cent in early bookings and predictions that the coming season could be the best for well over a decade.

The rush back to the pistes is being led by families with young children who are taking advantage of deals which enable a family of four to have an

all-inclusive holiday in the mountains for well under £1,000.

"The return of confidence in the British economy, combined with the strength of the pound, means that a winter sports holiday is back on the agenda for thousands of British skiers for the first time since the 1980s," Steve Garley, the commercial director of Thomson, says. Particularly popular are chalet holidays with tour operators who can afford to include a range of extras from ski passes to packed lunches.

So far this year, Thomson says, bookings to France are double what they were at this time last year. Switzerland is 270 per cent up, Austria 60 per

cent, Canada 300 per cent up and the US 500 per cent higher than it was a year ago.

By the end of the season – provided it snows in the Alps – the number of Britons who will take a ski holiday is expected to be at least 10 per cent more than the 700,000 who did so last year.

"Our bookings are up by a third, and we are heading for a record-breaking winter," says Andy Perrin, marketing direc-

tor of Crystal. "Everyone is claiming a slice of it, but the building society windfall is certainly present. People are spending more on their holidays as a result, going four-star instead of three, and high season instead of low. A family of four can easily save £1,000 this year."

The strength of the pound has cut brochure prices, with savings of up to £300 per holiday. Lift passes, lunches and drinks bought separately are also significantly cheaper, with savings in Austria, France and Switzerland of around 20 per cent.

With the pound beginning to peak, and the possibility of slight increases in brochure prices, operators recommend booking now for the best deals. Prices in Ingham's recently released second-edition brochure are £12 to £20 higher per person, with the US showing the biggest leap because of the rise in US

airport tax from \$6 to \$31.

Ingham's is claiming to be the market leader, stealing ahead of Crystal, last year's front runner, with a 30 per cent market share. It says that it has sold 40 per cent of its capacity and is between 60 per cent and 70 per cent up on last year, when it carried almost 90,000 skiers.

Official industry figures for the end of July reveal that France is in the lead, attracting 23 per cent of the total ski market from the UK, followed by Italy with 22 per cent and Austria with 16 per cent. But since then bookings have risen sharply.

Although the figures suggest Italy is performing well, most operators report that it is now starting to lag behind other destinations. Paul Lower, commercial director of First Choice, believes France will remain the most popular ski destination for UK customers.

A family affair: four people can go on a winter sports trip for less than £1,000

Photo: Spectrum Colour Library

Papin puts health of daughter before Villa game

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

JEAN-PIERRE PAPIN has been there, seen it and done it. With France, Marseilles, AC Milan and Bayern Munich. At the end of the month, though, he faces a dilemma that renders almost irrelevant his glittering career.

Papin, 33, now plays for Bordeaux, who drew 0-0 with Aston Villa in the first leg of their UEFA Cup first-round tie in the Stade Lescure on Tuesday. He played a vigorous role, as the hard-worked Villa defenders will testify, but he is not sure about his availability for the return at Villa Park on September 30.

The day before that match, Papin's daughter, Emily, 7, is due to travel to the United States for her six-month check-up on a rare brain disorder. Depending on the advice of the medical specialists, Papin may travel with her and miss the game.

"It all depends on what the doctors say," he said yesterday. "It is up to them to decide whether I need to be with her or not. If they say I do, I will go; if not, then I can play against Villa. It is too early yet to know what will happen."

Papin claimed that he had been offered the opportunity to play for Manchester United last season, alongside Eric Cantona, his friend and former France team-mate. Family considerations came first, though. "I didn't want to be too far away from Emily," he said. "I had to think about that above everything else."

Bordeaux showed enough on Tuesday to demonstrate that, with or without Papin, they still have a realistic chance of reaching the second round. But for Villa's resilient defence and the agility of Mark Bosnich, the goalkeeper, they could have built a good lead for the second leg. They also twice struck a post.

"We did not have the luck," Papin said. "We made the chances, but it would not work for us. If we can play with the same organisation, the same patience, then we still have a very good chance. I would be happy with 1-1, to go through on the away goals rule."

Brian Little, the Villa manager, said: "We knew we didn't have to do too much. We just had to be careful, be cagey and not do anything silly. That's what we did."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Sometimes you see a play which has no effect on the contract, yet it has class written all over it. (Rather like watching Gazza nutmeg the full back at the corner flag.) This is another hand from the Deutsch-Nickell final of the American trials.

Dealer West Love all IMPs

AK73	
VA1065	
QJ	
QJ2	
652	
Q42	
1062	
873	
Q1084	
973	
8754	
410	

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: two of spades

(1) The opening bid you have to make if you play five-card majors and a weak No-Trump.

(2) The US style is for North to rebid 1 NT if South responds One Diamond; thus if the responder is worth only one bid he shows his major, to find a possible 4-4 fit.

South was Michael Rosenberg, who used to play his bridge in Britain. He won the spade lead in dummy and led a club towards the ten. You can see his reasoning: he hoped West would win with an honour, and then he could subsequently ruff out East's club honour for a heart discard, before going about his business in diamonds.

Bob Hanuman was East. When the low club was led from dummy, he went in with

FOOTBALL: ENGLAND RECALL BECKONS AFTER COMPELLING UEFA CUP DISPLAY

By DAVID MADDOCK

SITTING huddled at the back of the main stand at Celtic Park on Tuesday night was an interested observer. John Gorman, the England assistant coach, had a specific task as he took in the UEFA Cup tie between Liverpool and Celtic. Gorman's brief, from Glenn Hoddle, was to watch Steve McManaman and assess the Liverpool midfield player's form. Further, and perhaps more significantly, he was also asked to judge the state of mind of McManaman in the build-up to England's World Cup qualifying match in Italy next month.

There is a history between McManaman and Hoddle. Where Terry Venables, Hoddle's predecessor as England coach, recognised the young man's rare talents and used them within the structure of his team, Hoddle has largely spurned the Liverpool player.

In ignoring him for the squad that faced Moldova on Wednesday last week, Hoddle took his indifference a step further. The England coach suggested that McManaman had been left out because of the unsettling influence of Barcelona's ill-fated advances for his services. But to those close to the England coach, there seemed to be a different agenda.

Hoddle has yet to be convinced by McManaman and was, apparently, far from happy that the player required extensive corrective treatment during the summer on a knee problem that forced him to miss England's tournament in France.

While Hoddle has yet to discover a role in which he can accommodate the Liverpool player, the fact remains that McManaman possesses the technique and talent that is generally lacking in the English game and it would be a foolish man who ignored such talent for a long period.

Gorman was not disappointed on Tuesday night. He witnessed some of the frustrations of McManaman, but also a glimpse of his real genius as he produced a breathtaking goal under real pressure to turn the all-English tie on its head in the last minute of the match.

What Gorman learnt was that McManaman has desire, that he thrives on the big game atmosphere. Gorman was quick to concede the point.

"I thought Steve scored a magnificent goal and I was really impressed by the way

he played. He's a genuine player who works hard and gives everything and you could see that he really wanted to win during the game," Gorman said.

McManaman, for his part, needed that goal, as much to silence the ludicrous allegations that have been hurled his way in recent times. Consider this: a week after he was the subject of a £13.5 million bid from Barcelona, it was suggested that his career was in ruins.

What McManaman had to do, though, was restore the reason why Barcelona, one of the world's biggest clubs,

had

wanted him. He did so on Tuesday night, with that goal, and it would have been interesting to note the reaction of Louis van Gaal, the Barcelona coach, had he watched the game on television. McManaman knows he needs moments like that if he is to resurrect his England career.

"I want to play for England more than anything and I was

disappointed to be left out," he said, "but I understand Glenn Hoddle's reasoning. No player has the right to be in the squad. He must earn it by producing the performances and that is my aim. I know I have to play well consistently and that is the only thing I'm concentrating on. The goal was a bit special, but it was significant more for the fact

that it brought Liverpool back into the tie after we had lost our way a little."

McManaman's goal belatedly illustrated what is a significant gap between Liverpool and Celtic. The Scottish club have passion and commitment, but it is all too painfully obvious they have a side which is beginning to lag behind the European elite.

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Wright hearing today

IAN WRIGHT, the Arsenal and England forward, will appear before a Football Association three-man commission today to answer a misconduct charge after a mêlée that followed the FA Carling Premiership match between Leicester City and Arsenal at Filbert Street last month.

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New Zealander expands Woodward's coaching regime



Woodward, left, and Uttley, the new England partnership, outline their plans after meeting the national squad at Bisham Abbey yesterday

Mitchell raises England's stock

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S best rugby union players will take their lead from an Anglo-New Zealand partnership for the next three years. Clive Woodward, who was introduced as the new national coach to an extended squad at Bisham Abbey yesterday, will be assisted by John Mitchell, the former New Zealand back-row forward who has enjoyed such success with Sale.

Two months ago, Don Rutherford, the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) director of rugby, opined that England was not yet ready for the culture shock of a New Zealand coach. He was speaking in the wake of a visit to Graham Henry, the Auckland coach, but now change is all around. "The status quo is not an option," Fran Cotton declared in forthright tones and, as the man charged with leading the country's playing direction for the foreseeable future, he should know.

To a degree, yesterday at Bisham resembled a reunion of England's 1980 grand-slam team. Cotton was joined by Bill Beaumont, chairman of the national playing committee, and Roger Uttley, the new England manager, all of whom played in the pack that year. Alongside them sat Woodward, whose first international season was that, but he rejected utterly the concept that he occupies his new role on the strength of his international career.

"I don't see my coaching record [with Henley, London Irish and, briefly, Bath] as a problem," Woodward said

CLIVE
WOODWARD

COACH

Born: By January 1, 1956. Played for Loughborough Students, Leicester and Manly (Sydney). 21 England caps. Played fly half for Harlequins youth and England colts, moved to centre at university and played for Leicester in three cup finals. Outstanding in the 1980 Calcutta Cup match that sealed England's grand slam and toured with the Lions to South Africa in 1980 and New Zealand in 1983.

Spent five years playing for Manly. After returning home, began coaching with Henley, London Irish, Bath and England Under-21.

On five-year contract with the club.

After criticism from Geoff Cooke, the former England manager, that it did not stand up to scrutiny. "Just because you once played for England does not make you a good coach. You have to earn your stripes. The game has changed."

"But we have some superb coaches in England and we will be working as a team of four [with Mitchell and Richard Hill in the A team, whose forwards coach who has yet to be confirmed]. My position is a bit like that of a 19-year-old picked to play for England, which must be a bit of a risk. But you have to take that on board."

It is likely that Rob Smith, from Wasps, will join Hill and Andrew Harriman, the former Harlequins wing, in the A-team management. John Elion, the RFU development officer, will manage the under-21 team, with coaches still to be confirmed, but Cotton requires that all England's rep-

resentative teams, down to the schoolboys, identify a national style. "One of the exciting things about this management team is that we have people who are innovators," Cotton said. "We have to develop an English style, not just copy other people."

Cotton and Woodward were unanimous in their praise for



Mitchell: success

JOHN
MITCHELL

ASSISTANT COACH

Born: New Zealand, March 23, 1954. Played for Canterbury, Hamilton, Waikato, Lyons, Olympique and Garyounis. Uncapped.

Outstanding provincial career in New Zealand earned him a place on the All Blacks tour to Britain in 1993, when he captained the midweek XV. Leo Wekaato, a famous Ranfurly Shield, won over Auckland that year and also to victory over the Lions.

Became forwards coach to Ireland in 1993 and, then, Sale. Spent five years coaching for Paul Turner in 1996. Helped Sale to last season's Pilkington Cup final. On five-year contract with the club.

ROGER
UTTLEY

TEAM MANAGER

Born: Blackpool, Sept. 9, 1949. Played for Garsforth and Wasps. 23 England caps.

Uttley, head of PE at Harrow School, returns to international duty after a six-year break. His England career, between 1973-80, was disrupted by injury but he played lock, No 8, and, memorably, for the unbeaten British Isles in South Africa in 1974, blind-side flanker.

Appointed England coach in 1985 and took them to the line of the 1987 World Cup at Twickenham before, in 1990, standing down, toured Australia as forwards coach to the 1991 Lions.

against the All Blacks, but, with a five-year club contract at Sale, he considers himself part of England's coaching structure now and does not necessarily envisage a prompt return to Bisham at the end of that contract.

"New Zealand are setting the standards and it will be a massive effort if they can sustain their momentum up to the 1999 World Cup," Mitchell said. "The only way to measure ourselves is to play against them and, after December 6, we will know how far we have to go."

Woodward will give no hostages to fortune when invited to discuss his playing style. "I'm very keen on winning," he said, "but it's very dangerous to say we will play in a certain style, you leave yourself wide open. You play according to the strengths of the players you have at your disposal and the next four games represent a massive opportunity. They can't come quickly enough for me."

The squad will be pared to a manageable number before training next Wednesday, but Woodward is in no hurry to appoint a captain. He will discuss with Uttley, who will stand down from his role as chairman of rugby at Wasps, the merits of several candidates, among them Phil de Glanville, the sitting tenant, Martin Johnson, the British Isles captain, Lawrence Dallaglio, Jason Leonard and Tim Rodber.

Woodward has spoken to most of the first division coaches as well as with Jack Rowell, his predecessor, and hopes that training sessions — there is a five-year agreement between the RFU and the English Rugby Partnership over the release of players for international duty — can complement club sessions. It was a point stressed by Mitchell, who believes that there are too many demands placed upon the top players.

"We have to be careful we don't flatten the players," Mitchell said. The former Waikato No 8 will have the curious experience of preparing England's forwards for two internationals, on November 22 and December 6, against the All Blacks, but, with a five-year club contract at Sale, he considers himself part of England's coaching structure now and does not necessarily envisage a prompt return to Bisham at the end of that contract.

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London to capitalise on test of endurance

DAVID POWELL

on the mass appeal of Sunday's triathlon

For Dorando Pietri, read Julie Moss. The earliest abiding image of the marathon is Pietri's collapse towards the finish of the 1908 Olympic marathon and his repeated attempts to pick himself up off the track. Moss is triathlon's legendary martyr.

When the first mass-participation triathlon to be staged in Great Britain is held in London on Sunday, it will mark endorsement of a sport that has long enjoyed large-scale popularity in the United States. The sight of Moss on all fours, crawling exhausted over the last 20 yards of the 19

CRICKET: WELSH COUNTY READY TO TAKE FINAL STEP ON ROAD TO HOME RULE

THE TIMES THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18 1997

Glamorgan relish power play

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

GLAMORGAN have not won the county championship since the year that Prince Charles was invested as Prince of Wales. In 29 summers, the world has moved on apace, even if the championship has not, and it is symbolic that the county should begin the match that could bring the title back to Wales on the day that the country votes on devolution.

For Glamorgan, even the involvement is special. In 1970, the year after their championship season, they finished second. Since then, they have been no higher than eighth for 25 out of 26 seasons. Six times, more than any other

they have turned this concluding week into a private duel. Glamorgan must go to Taunton aiming for maximum points: anything less will open the way for Kent to take the title by beating Surrey at Canterbury.

As both teams have won seven games, it is conceivable that the title could be shared for the first time in 20 years. In 1977, Kent were involved again, finishing tied with Middlesex after a titanic final round. The next year, they took the championship outright, for the sixth and most recent time.

Alan Eatham, the 1978 captain, will be at Canterbury today, not only to support his son, Mark, but in the hope that the modern Kent team will not enhance their reputation for failing to finish what they have started. Already they have flopped in the final of the Benson and Hedges Cup and lost the Axa Life League on its last day. To miss out on the championship as well would be difficult to bear.

Kent are opposed today by a team with a tendency to play fatalistic cricket when their chance of honours has gone. It will be a decimated team, too, stripped by injury of Adam Hollis, Martin Bicknell and Chris Lewis, though as Kent have to resolve doubts over their own new-ball pair, that may only even things up.

Dean Headley will not play, the hip condition that continues to trouble him having ended prematurely the season of mixed promise and anxiety. Martin McCague, although less than 100 per cent fit, is likely to return.

It is in the overseas player area that Glamorgan have the advantage. Waqar Younis is fit and fully motivated for the game against Somerset, but Kent must get by without Paul Strang, who is back in Zimbabwe preparing for a Test match against New Zealand. Kent, indeed, will probably do without spin altogether, which may give some clue as to the texture of the Canterbury pitch.

Glamorgan will need to bat



James will be hoping to rekindle his imperious form for Glamorgan at Taunton

at their best to secure maximum bonus points, so Steve James's duel with Andy Caddick will be central, for more than one reason. James, already named as the Professional Cricketers' Association player of the year, is in a three-way race with Mark Ramprakash and Graham Thorpe for the Whyte & Mackay batting award, while Caddick heads the table for the bowling prize.

Glamorgan will need to bat

James brought a staggering record into the championship run-in. Before the match at Leicester, late last month, his sequence of scores read 162, 69, 130, 103 and 13. Since then, he has managed 14, 21, 16, 28, 24 and 4. He is too good a player for such a slump to continue and his form will be crucial today.

In 1969, Glamorgan won the title through the dependability of that masterful slow

bowler, Don Shepherd, and their left-handed opener, Alan Jones. Robert Croft is still aspiring to the heights of Shepherd, his mentor, and James could be a latter-day Jones. This, without question, is the strongest Glamorgan side for three decades, probably the strongest in the championship this summer. If they hold their nerve and are blessed by the weather, they can gain due reward.

Bennett prepares the way for Gatting's succession



EXTRA COVER

IT IS not only distinguished and journeymen cricketers who are taking their leave of the game this week. Jack Bond and Barrie Meyer officiate for the last time in a fixture involving their former counties, Lancashire and Gloucestershire, and Don Bennett, the longest-serving coach in the country, is also retiring. His county, Middlesex, are seeking an Australian to replace him — but only for a season.

John Buchanan, the coach of Queensland, has been approached. The idea is that Mike Gatting will succeed him. "I will be very disappointed if he [Gatting] does not do the job after he has played on for one more season," Bennett said, "and I think in the long term Mike will be appointed by England. Since I started coaching the first team in 1969, he has been the player who has stood out. I rate him as a captain as highly as Mike Gatting."

Bennett, who is 63, has been with Middlesex since 1950, when Wisden recorded that "Titmus (17) and Bennett (16) showed skill for their ages". He also played football for Arsenal and Coventry City.

In Bennett's playing days as a medium-pace bowler, Middlesex won nothing. Since he became coach, they have acquired 14 trophies. No wonder the committee is honouring him with a dinner in November.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed it, but two things concern me in particular," he said. "Players are moving around for ridiculous money and the

campaign to dissuade him from sporting a newly-grown moustache. A letter from an admirer informed him the moustache was as bad as "painting a beard on the Mona Lisa". His resolve to keep it intensifying further.

Firth, a former editor of both magazines, is now having an altercation with Eric Budd, who refuses to stock the autobiography in the bookshop he runs at the Oval and has had it taken off a separate sales point on the ground. "I think I can be forgiven for having grave suspicions that there is a closing of ranks against me," Firth said.

War of words

The controversy over David Firth's autobiography, *Cought England, Bowled Australia*, shows no signs of abating. Wisden's *Cricket Monthly*, which, like *The Cricketer*, is not carrying a review, details its reasons for not doing so, and Firth's subsequent departure from the editorial board. In its imminent issue.

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No-ball

Ben Bruckhurst, a former captain of Somerset who took on the task of developing the game on Corfu, quickly learnt that a sense of humour was required when the island's fishermen commanded some nets sent out from England.

Bruckhurst also recalls asking his Corfu agent to send a telex to England for more cricket balls. He learnt later that this had read: "Cricketers have arrived without their balls." Back came the answer from London: "Sorry to hear your news. No holiday is complete without them."

Answers from page 46

SEMICHA
(b) The laying-on of hands by which a Rabbi is ordained. The ordination of a Rabbi, a diploma of ordination. "Out of regular disciples (Talmudim) were chosen the Chaverim (colleagues) who again were elected to the dignity of a Rabbi by the Semicha or imposition of hands by three members of the Sanhedrin."

CHAROSET
(a) A mixture of apples, nuts, spices etc., eaten ceremonially at the Passover Seder service. It symbolises the clay mixed by the Israelites during their slavery in Egypt.

AUTOPLATE
(d) A curved stereotype for newspaper printing, made by an autotype machine. A machine for automatically casting, slaving and bevelling stereotypes.

MARIA AGNESI
(b) The first woman in the Western world (so far as is known) who could accurately be called a mathematician. Born in Milan in 1718, she became knowledgeable in a wide range of science. After 1738 she concentrated on maths. In 1748 she produced a 1,000-page study of algebra and analysis, acclaimed by the French Academy of Science as the best of its kind. She was appointed to the Chair of Mathematics and Science at Bologna by the Pope in 1750.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1... Rg4+! 2 fxe3+ winning the white queen.

FATHER TIMES

TELEVISION CHOICE

The high price of freedom

Films of Fire: How Far Home? Channel 4, 9.00pm

Gerry Conlon was one of the Guildford Four, spending 15 years in prison before his conviction was quashed in 1989. But as Brendan Byrne's measured but powerful film shows, freedom did not produce happiness. Conlon felt disoriented and was overwhelmed by the public attention. He helped to write the film about the Guildford Four. *In the Name of the Father*, but could not handle the publicity and turned to hard drugs as a way of escape. Now 43, he is still confused, finding it difficult to put down roots or form lasting relationships. Not surprisingly, he has allied himself with other ex-prisoners of miscarried justice, such as the Birmingham Six. He is angry that he was not given help when he left prison and he is still waiting for an official apology.

Horizon: Mind Over Body
BBC2, 9.25pm

That the mind may be able to affect the way we fight disease is an intriguing thought, though the merit of Jill Fullerton-Smith's film is that it assesses the evidence coolly and does not make extravagant claims. Medical orthodoxy maintained that the body worked independently of the mind and assertions to the contrary were denounced as unscientific. The film describes a number of studies over the past 20 years which have provided evidence of a mind/body link and looks at how this might be applied to the treatment of diseases, even malignant ones. Christine McMechie, who has breast cancer, is taking part in a trial at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary in which patients are taught to fight their cancer by relaxation techniques and by visualising its destruction. Nobody pretends that this amounts to a cure but nor can it be dismissed as mumbo-jumbo.

999 International
BBC1, 9.30pm

As another series of reconstructed near-tragedies comes to an end, let us reflect on a dubious but clever formula. In one sense the programmes are creating entertainment out of the misfortunes of others. Private horror is made public, to be enjoyed from the comfort of our armchairs. But, and this is



Robinson, Conlon and Power (C4, 9pm)

central to the project, there is always a happy ending. We know this because the victims are there on screen, smiling and relieved, to take us through their ordeals. The British version of *999* could claim the justification of passing on first-aid tips. Not so, however. Tonight's victims are Swiss mountaineers stuck down a crevasse, a hurriedly injured canoeist and a helicopter's winchman stranded in the Atlantic Ocean.

QED — Challenging Children
BBC1, 10.30pm

Tonight's film is called *Crisis in the Classroom* and charts the efforts to save four children with variously difficult behaviour from being excluded from school. All four have the benefit of the Marlborough Family Service, an education unit in London. Its co-founder, Brenda McHugh, talks of turning a linear problem into a systemic issue. Translated into English, this means not just involving the child but also its parents and recognising that different families need different solutions. Patient work by the Marlborough's team of therapists attempts to rid James of his temper tantrums and Danny of his agoraphobia, to wean Share off his disruptive behaviour and to coax Jobedah, who has taken refuge in silence and has become unteachable, back into speech. The results are quietly impressive.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Not Just A Pretty Face

Radio 4, 7.30pm

This programme, the first in a three-part series on the Miss America pageant, is all the more powerful for starting with the home-spun innocence of the 1958 winner being crowned and intoning the standard "God bless America" sentiments of such occasions. But Marilyn Van Derbur was, indeed, not just a pretty face. Although she was probably the most popular winner in the history of the pageant, and went on to become a successful television presenter, the fame hid a dark childhood in which she was the victim of incest. The perpetrator was her father, a wealthy man, who, says Van Derbur, "pried me open. It was repetitive, consistent, unending until I turned 18 and left home." Her ordeal remained hidden for 40 years.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Many Ann Hobbs includes 12.30 Newsbeat 2.00 Noisy Campbell with the Afternoon Lovefest and the Teasingly Topical Triple Trumper 4.00 Kevin Greening 5.00 Newsdesk 6.00 Evening Business 7.00 Michaela 8.00 9.00 More Upfront 10.00 Business 10.15 Home is Where the Haber is 10.30 Business 10.45 Sport 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Discovery 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30pm The Learning World 12.45 F. O. C. 1.00 News 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Record News 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newsheat 3.00 News 3.05 Record 3.30 Multi-Task 4.00 News 4.00 Sport 4.15 B. P. Pursue 4.30 News 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.00 News 6.15 The World Today 7.30 Radio 3 Record News 6.45 Sport 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 Plants of Power 8.00 News 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 John Peel 9.00 Newsheat 10.00 News 10.50 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Meridian 10.45 Britain Today 11.30 The World Today 11.45 Sport 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30pm China 12.45 Business 1.00 Newsdesk 1.15 B. P. Pursue 1.45 Psychologically Speaking 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 The Works 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.00 News 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today (548 only) 5.00 Newsdesk 5.30 Europe Today

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 The World Today 7.30 Mandan Boobs 8.00 News 8.15 On the Shelf Red Dwarf 8.30 Composer of the Month 9.00 News 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Sport 9.30 Newsdesk 9.45 Europe Today 9.50 News 10.00 Business 10.15 Home is Where the Haber is 10.30 Business 10.45 Sport 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Discovery 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30pm The Learning World 12.45 F. O. C. 1.00 News 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Record News 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newsheat 3.00 News 3.05 Record 3.30 Multi-Task 4.00 News 4.00 Sport 4.15 B. P. Pursue 4.30 News 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.00 News 6.15 The World Today 7.30 Radio 3 Record News 6.45 Sport 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 Plants of Power 8.00 News 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 John Peel 9.00 Newsheat 10.00 News 10.50 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Meridian 10.45 Britain Today 11.30 The World Today 11.45 Sport 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30pm China 12.45 Business 1.00 Newsdesk 1.15 B. P. Pursue 1.45 Psychologically Speaking 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 The Works 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.00 News 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today (548 only) 5.00 Newsdesk 5.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Alan Mann 9.00 Harry Kelly 1.00pm Listener Request Hour with Jane Jones 2.00 Concerto 3.00 Flute Concerto No 2 4.00 Michael Tippett 5.00 Concerto for Violin 6.00 Concerto No 1 7.00 Sonata 2.00 Concerto 3.00 Concerto No 1 7.00 8.00 Concerto 9.00 Concerto 10.00 Michael Tippett 2.00am Concerto in G 3.00 Mark Griffiths

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffin 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Torrmy Boyd 4.00 Peter Denyer 7.00 Anna Rawlinson 9.00 James Whistle 1.00am Ian Colins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Andrew McGregor. Includes Verdi's *La Traviata* 7.00 Solti's *Verdi Vassar* 7.00 Dvorak's *Stabat Mater* 8.00 *Capriccio* 9.00 John Peel 10.00 *Capriccio* 11.00 *Capriccio* 12.00 *Capriccio* 1.00 *Capriccio* 2.00 *Capriccio* 3.00 *Capriccio* 4.00 *Capriccio* 5.00 *Capriccio* 6.00 *Capriccio* 7.00 *Capriccio* 8.00 *Capriccio* 9.00 *Capriccio* 10.00 *Capriccio* 11.00 *Capriccio* 12.00 *Capriccio* 1.00 *Capriccio* 2.00 *Capriccio* 3.00 *Capriccio* 4.00 *Capriccio* 5.00 *Capriccio* 6.00 *Capriccio* 7.00 *Capriccio* 8.00 *Capriccio* 9.00 *Capriccio* 10.00 *Capriccio* 11.00 *Capriccio* 12.00 *Capriccio* 1.00 *Capriccio* 2.00 *Capriccio* 3.00 *Capriccio* 4.00 *Capriccio* 5.00 *Capriccio* 6.00 *Capriccio* 7.00 *Capriccio* 8.00 *Capriccio* 9.00 *Capriccio* 10.00 *Capriccio* 11.00 *Capriccio* 12.00 *Capriccio* 1.00 *Capriccio* 2.00 *Capriccio* 3.00 *Capriccio* 4.00 *Capriccio* 5.00 *Capriccio* 6.00 *Capriccio* 7.00 *Capriccio* 8.00 *Capriccio* 9.00 *Capriccio* 10.00 *Capriccio* 11.00 *Capriccio* 12.00 *Capriccio* 1.00 *Capriccio* 2.00 *Capriccio* 3.00 *Capriccio* 4.00 *Capriccio* 5.00 *Capriccio* 6.00 *Capriccio* 7.00 *Capriccio* 8.00 *Capriccio* 9.00 *Capriccio* 10.00 *Capriccio* 11.00 *Capriccio* 12.00 *Capriccio* 1.00 <i

Alternative antiques and doggy derring-do

Francine Stock has returned with what we thought was *The Antiques Show* (BBC1) but which *The Radio Times* describes as "Top Gear on antiques". I must have been watching a different programme last night, because somewhere out there exists a copy with the *real* commentary that Stock recorded as she wandered around The Grosvenor House Antiques Fair chattering to Shalakia Caine and Sally Burton (but not Jeremy Clarkson). You know the one I mean, the Stock commentary which tells us: "Look at this Louis XVI *fauteuil* and before you write out a cheque for £8,000 ask yourself: will it impress your girlfriend the next time you bring her back for coffee? Now, this Georgian writing table, that's what you call a nice antique. Owning this slab of prime pre-Greenpeace mahogany would be even more fun than tossing TV sets off the top of a skyscraper."

Then David Dickinson, the dealer who addresses us as if we're a remedial class, turned up with his weekly *Buyers' Guide* — this week's being on period baths. "If this bath — which has a few little chips on the enamel, the size of a sixpence, and rather cumbersome plumbing back here which would need to be overhauled if you didn't want blockages in your waste trap — is this bath were a person," Dickinson was probably saying on the missing commentary, "it would be your Great Auntie Hilda before she'd had her facial mask seen to and her new colostomy bag installed."

Madeleine Marsh then took us to the National Classic Caravans Rally, where people who spend their weekends restoring 1920s, 1930s and 1940s caravans instead of leading normal lives, gather to admire each other's so-called "working antiques" — although until an antique has its own tax

lawyer it's probably not working hard enough, if you ask me. So what was *Madeleine* saying on the phantom *Antiques Show* voiceover that had gone missing? Probably: "These caravans came with everything except an indoor loo. Accessories ranged all the way from crockery and cutlery designed specifically for each trailer, all the way to paper bags with holes cut out for the eyes so that embarrassed owners could drive them without being recognised by anyone they might know."

Just as *I Love Lucy*, *MASH* spawned so many episodes over the years that a cheapo media mogul could probably run a 24-hour cable television channel showing nothing but *I Love Lucy* reruns or *MASH* or *Cheers* repeats, there will soon be enough animal and vet-related programmes from *Animal Hospital*

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

and *Per Rescue to Noah's Ark and Vets in Practice* to provide round-the-clock programming for a new Animal Channel.

At least BBC Bristol produces a better class of animal programme than most, as we are seeing in *Animal People* (BBC1). Last week it was about a couple who took in a lion cub, with mixed results. This week it was back to that perennial favourite: dogs. It was one of those

"aren't-dogs-just-great?" programmes that could bear repeated showings on a new cable Animal Channel — except maybe in Korea, where it might be better suited to the Food Channel. The programme had its moments even for those of us who have little interest in how much that doggy in the window is, unless someone happens to be offering a substantial prize for guessing correctly.

The programme's message was essentially that dogs are the unsung heroes of war. We saw little poodles running across minefields ferrying messages; we saw them being parachuted on raids behind enemy lines, and we saw them being trained to sniff out explosives in Northern Ireland. Never underestimate a dog's nose. "Dogs see the world in odour pictures," said the narrator, Ian McShane, "with a sense of smell a thousand times greater than our own." When you think how much time

they spend smelling each other's bottoms, it's a wonder they can still walk straight, let alone run errands behind enemy lines like a canine Milk Tray Man.

There were many moving testimonies from owners who insisted that their doggy had saved their lives. Para-trooper Bill Rutter recalled how, in the Ardennes in 1944, he was walking in the woods during a full in the fighting when his search dog Rex darted off into the undergrowth and leapt on a German sniper who was about to shoot. "If he hadn't caught them," Bill told us, "I wouldn't be here. I should have been lying with a lot of my mates out there."

Then there was John Flannery, who was on patrol in Vietnam with his search dog Bruiser, when their patrol was ambushed. John was badly wounded, unable to move. But Bruiser wouldn't leave. He

dragged John by the shoulder to an old bomb crater which afforded shelter. "I love him. I miss him. I'll never forget him," wept Flannery.

"Under the stresses of war," said McShane, "man's best friend has revealed intelligence and senses so powerful, we can't fully explain them. They have instincts we don't understand. It's a mystery."

But not as big a mystery as the commissioning of *Chalk*, the classroom sitcom which returned to BBC1 last night with a suspiciously little fanfare. The plot pivoted on whether or not a new student teacher was — gulp! — gay. Listen to the student teacher offering Galfast High's deputy headmaster, played by David Bamber, a biscuit from an unseen bin: "Would you like a chocolate finger?"

Oh, crikey! Even Reg Varney would wince to be associated with a line like that. But that's how we know that *Chalk*, too, is a mystery: because the show's such a dog.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (26789)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (98947031)

9.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (8292128)

9.30 Style Challenge Two former heart transplant patients receive a makeover (1630128)

9.55 Kilroy (T) (5689789)

10.35 Change That From Cardiff (1762215)

11.00 News (T) and weather (4034383)

11.05 The Really Useful Show Consumer issues (T) (9074302)

11.35 Room for Improvement Artificially ageing furniture: the efficiency of self-assembly instructions (2645302)

12.00 News (T) and weather (5004505)

12.05pm Call My Bluff (9882296)

12.35 Going for a Song (975857)

1.00 News (T) and weather (24244)

1.30 Regional News (17682383)

1.40 The Weather Show (87547298)

1.45 Neighbours (T) (2732857)

2.10 Guiney A teenager dies after taking a designer drug (T) (4961645)

3.00 Through the Keyhole (949)

3.30 Funnybones (7514266) 3.35 Playdays (6350202) 3.55 Dinhobles (261418)

4.20 Mr Wynn (T) (2847383) 4.35 Cartoon Critters (6859760) 5.00 Newsround (T) (9261298) 5.10 Byker Grove. Last in series (T) (71) (50562)

5.35 Neighbours (T) (723383)

6.00 News (T) and weather (895)

6.30 Regional News (T) (147)

7.00 Watching With Anne Robinson, including Richard Braemar answering criticisms about poor standards of service on Virgin Rail; and a "tree" water-saving device that Yorkshire Water makes its customers pay for (T) (4708)

7.30 EastEnders Pauline gets a blast from the past. While Polly tries to force Tony into making a decision about their relationship, the tension mounts for Mark and Ruth (T) (401)

8.00 Birds of a Feather: The Chigwell Connection Doubt is cast over the guilt of Chris and Daryl; Doreen is embarrassed, With Pauline Quirke, Linda Robson and Lesley Joseph (T) (757641)

8.50 Animal Hospital Heroes With Ross Harris (T) (516709)

9.00 News (T) and weather (1215)

9.30 **Newsround** 99. International includes reconstruction of the plight of a helicopter windmill stranded in the Atlantic and a mountaineer stuck in a crevasse (T) (701673)

10.20 **QED: Challenging Children** Insight into the work of Westminster's pioneering education unit for disruptive pupils. Devised by psychotherapists, the classes are also compulsory for parents (T) (774789)

11.15 Referendum '97 Wales Decides How Edwards presents live coverage from Cardiff as the results of the referendum on a Welsh assembly are declared. Peter Snow analyses the outcome of the day's activity at the polls with the help of his famous Swingspot (59878470)

3.00am Weather (86550506)

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Renewable Energies (5732760) 6.50 Patterns in Green (5489166)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T) and signing (4529585)

7.30 Smurfs' Adventures (T) (6810963) 7.55 Blue Peter (T) (669548) 8.20 Mouse and Mole (T) (7417586) 8.35 Teletubbies (T) (1297031) 9.00 Harry and the Hendersons (T) (2891999) 9.25 Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars (b/w) (T) (3080321) 9.45 Rocky Star (b/w) (T) (689248) 9.50 Cartoon 10.00 Teletubbies (63499)

10.30 Lone Rider: Guests Back (1941, b/w)

Musical western with George Huston. Directed by Al St John (90321)

11.30 The Fugitive (b/w) (T) (9511760)

12.20pm Complete Guide to the 20th Century (T) (6506963) 12.30 Working Lunch (75838) 1.00 Monty (7369705) 1.10 The Craft Hours (3578532) 2.10 Consuming Passions (1194337)

2.20 Racing from Newbury Featuring the 2.40; 3.10; 3.40 and 4.10 races (5633079)

4.30 Going, Going, Gone (6858031) 4.55 Esther, when a sibling dies (2346942)

5.30 Today's the Day (298)

6.00 Deep Space Nine (T) (604708)

6.15 Sliders (T) (866012)

7.30 Leviathan John Cole on the 1921 negotiations between the British Government and Sinn Fein, which resulted in Ireland's partition (T) (673)

8.00 The Air Show The history of the United States Air Force, and the World Air Games in Turkey (1470) WALES: Anchors Away

8.30 Top Gear The new Peugeot 406 Coupé and the Mercedes CLK; the Frankfurt Show (T) (5565)

9.00 Third Rock from the Sun Sci-Fi comedy (419334)

9.30 Clive James on TV Clive selects more memorable moments from British television (7031)

9.45 Taggart: Babushka Jardine, Reid and Fraser uncover more duplicity as they close in on the blackmailers, but can they prevent further tragedy? (3/3) (3252)

10.00 News (T) and weather (43296)

10.30 Regional News (T) (565383)

10.45 **Meridian** The Ferret New magazine focusing on consumer issues (451586)

10.40 West Eye View Investigating low pay at the West's premier holiday spot (451586)

11.15 WALES: Celtic Fists A six-part documentary series looking at the lineage of Celtic boxing champions (T) (51168)

11.15-20 WALES: Referendum '97: Wales Decides The results live from Cardiff (8391121)

11.15 In Suspicious Circumstances (T) (934181)

12.15 Short Story Cinema (2206616)

12.25 The LADS (2944432) 1.00 Planet Rock Profile (375513) 1.40 Ed's Night Party (4245451) 2.05 Late and Loud (T) (528109) 2.30 WALES: Late & Loud 3.00 Waterline (T) (6923984) 3.25 Good Sex Guide (T) (9184109)

4.25 Recollections (67165187) 4.35 Time, the Place (T) (6895900) 5.00 Garden Calendar (T) (98345) 5.30 Newsround (T) (601693) 5.30

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Prost's rejection adds to world champion's woes as Walkinshaw recruits Salo

Arrows leave Hill with few options

By MICHAEL CALVIN

DAMON HILL endured a harrowing birthday yesterday when his calculated gamble on the cachet of a world championship began to unravel. Rejection by Alain Prost, in the aftermath of an announcement that Hill is to be replaced at Arrows by Mika Salo next season, threw the threat to his Formula One career into sharp focus.

Hill's only realistic option seems to be a move to Jordan, whose commercial director, Ian Phillips, stressed last night that an immediate deal was "unlikely". Their interest is in abeyance because they have until this evening to decide whether to appeal against a High Court ruling obliging them to return Giancarlo Fisichella, the outstanding young Italian driver, to Benetton.

"That is our priority," Phillips, who is likely to come under renewed pressure from Benson & Hedges, the team's principal sponsors, to recruit

Hill, said Jordan have had no formal contact with Hill's advisers this week, although they held informal talks in Spa, Belgium, a month ago.

Hill, 37 yesterday, was travelling to Zeltweg for the Austrian Grand Prix. It had been assumed that his future lay with Prost's eponymous team. A two-year deal, worth in the region of £10 million, had been discussed with Peugeot, the engine manufacturers, and Total, the fuel suppliers, but collapsed suddenly.

A curt statement issued by Prost read: "Following talks with Damon Hill the two parties have failed to come to a satisfactory agreement. Discussions have now come to a close." The unspoken accusation, that the Briton had priced himself out of his buyer's market, was obvious.

By contrast, the strains of Hill's departure from Oxfordshire-based Arrows team were disguised by PR pieties. A statement issued by Tom

Walkinshaw, the owner, stressed that it had "been invaluable to have the world champion driving for us", but his best wishes for the future had a distinctly hollow ring.

The feeling persists that Walkinshaw, an arch pragmatist, decided to get his retaliation in first once he realised that the £5 million required to retain Hill next season could be put to better use strengthening the technical infrastructure of his team.

Walkinshaw has underlined his potential in an uncompetitive Tyrrell for three seasons. His services were also available at less than half of Hill's asking price.

Walkinshaw contacted Salo's management team at 6.30am yesterday from Paris, where he was stopping en route from a business trip to Japan at which he met representatives from Bridgestone, the tyre suppliers, and Yamaha, the engine manufacturers.

Their agreement, for a three-year contract involving annual option clauses, was concluded by lunchtime.

Significantly, Walkinshaw insisted that discussions with sponsors had led to the realisation that "Mika would be the most appropriate driver for us". In the doublespeak that passes as contractual negotiation, that means Hill's world title was regarded as excess baggage. The after-thought, that Pedro Diniz will help to form a "perfect partnership", was understandable, given that the Brazilian contributes £10 million to the Arrows budget in the form of personal sponsorship.

It is still difficult to believe that Hill, who has the patronage of Bernie Ecclestone, the sport's principal powerbroker, will be without a drive next season, but for someone whose popularity is based upon his humility and humanity, he has been done a grave disservice by the clumsy stewardship of his career. He has lost much of the sympathy generated by his summary



Hill faces the prospect of being without a drive next season after a harrowing day yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

dismissal from Williams last autumn.

Walkinshaw's motives in forcing the issue will be widely understood and supported. His strictures about the consistency of Hill's motivation, aired most publicly at the

British Grand Prix in July, have not been entirely undermined by Hill's subsequent performances. Mechanical failure robbed him of victory in Hungary, but he was outqualified by Diniz in Belgium. His best chance now

lies in Jordan accepting legal logic and selecting him as a partner of sufficient stature for Ralf Schumacher.

The only other leading driver on the market, after Jean Alesi's agreement with Sauber, is Gerhard Berger, who is

expected to announce his retirement plans at his home grand prix this weekend. Someone of Hill's record and reputation should not be in the invidious position of seeking scraps, however lucrative the indignity.

Brive must shrug off after-effects to play tie at Bath

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BRIVE, the holders of the Heineken Cup, must play their match with Bath at the Recreation Ground on Saturday despite the injuries incurred by three leading players at the weekend. The tournament directors, meeting yesterday in Dublin, turned down the French club's request for a postponement in the wake of the bar-room brawl involving players and supporters from Pontypriod.

It will rub salt into Brive's wounds if they are unable to field Christophe Lamaison, Philippe Carbonneau and David Venditti — all of them injured during the violent confrontation late on Sunday night — while Bath may give a debut on the wing to Ieuan Evans, who scored a try in a second-XV game against Gloucester on Tuesday.

The game is already a sell-out, but of greater concern to Brive is their return game with Pontypriod at Sardis Road on September 27. Lamaison, the France centre, has already said that he and his colleagues would find it difficult to play there, but Pontypriod officials claimed there would be no animosity. "If they come, we will be looking for a fair and good match," Eddie Jones, the team manager, said.

Dale McIntosh, the Pontypriod No 8, and Lionel Mallier, the Brive flanker, have already been suspended for a month after being sent off on Sunday. McIntosh was one of three players primarily implicated in the aftermath of his club's 32-31 defeat and it is the continuing judicial inquiry in France that will have lengthened the European Rugby Cup board's emergency meeting, called to examine the violence in Brive and the confrontational game the previous day between Pau and Llanelli.

Meanwhile, Pontypriod regrouped to prepare for their scheduled game with Scottish Borders in Kelso on Saturday evening. "We don't have any problem with playing Pontypriod," Rob Moffat, the Borders coach, said. "Rugby union has obviously suffered because of the publicity it has received after Sunday's scenes in Brive, but I am sure it will be a great night with some excellent entertainment."

Gullit faces temptation to give youth its fling

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

CHELSEA won the Cup Winners' Cup in Athens in 1971, beating mighty Real Madrid in a thrilling replay. They could now win it again.

No opposition as strong as Real is in evidence this season and the Italian Cup-holders, Vicenza, have just lost their most dangerous striker, Otero, the Uruguayan, with a serious injury. Certainly, Slovan Bratislava, Chelsea's opposition in the first-round, first-leg tie at Stamford Bridge tonight, are unlikely to stand in Chelsea's way. This Bratislava team is a far cry from the one that, a few years back, pushed Aston Villa so hard in the Uefa Cup. Money, or the lack of it, is at the root of their problems.

For example, they have lost two experienced goalkeepers, Venczel and Monar, in quick succession. Konig is far less convincing and may find this a daunting occasion.

Club managers have scant security in Slovakia. This game will be watched by Karol Pezce, an accomplished manager dismissed last season by Spartak Trnava when they were pipped on the post by FC Kosice — who have just sacked their manager — for the championship.

Pezce is expected imminently to take over from the two Bratislava incumbents, Bodnar and Mader, who have been holding the fort until now. So Pezce will probably be on the bench when Chelsea play the away leg.

Bratislava have a quick, lively attacking midfield player in Robert Tomascek, who interested Graham Taylor when he was managing Wokingham Wanderers. Miroslav Glonek, a powerful and

experienced international centre back, has returned after playing in France for Caen. Up front, Stefan Maixner is his team's best hope of goals, but the truth is that Bratislava have been unable to buy.

What a contrast with Chelsea, who have virtually assembled two full teams. Knowing that the Premiership match with Arsenal awaits on Sunday, Ruud Gullit, the manager, may be inclined to give youth its fling, as he did so successfully on Saturday against Crystal Palace.

This could mean further opportunities for Mark Nicholas, 20, and Paul Hughes, 21. There might even be a place in midfield for Jody Morris, who will not turn 19 until December. Up front, Gullit is spoilt for choice. Mark Hughes and Tore Andre Flo of Norway played against Palace. Flo could get another run, but it might be politic to rest the veteran Hughes. Gianluca Vialli has a thigh strain; Torino, coached by Graeme Souness, are said to have renewed their interest in him.

Bratislava have already knocked out Levski Sofia, drawing the first game, winning the second. Those who play for Chelsea against Bratislava and Arsenal will have fewer than three days to recover. Against that, Arsenal, who played on Tuesday, must recuperate from a long trip and a hard game and they do not have Chelsea's extravagant resources.

Fifa ranks England above Italy

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

IT MIGHT count for little in the heat of Rome on October 11, when England and Italy meet in their deciding group two World Cup qualifying match, but England are now five places above Italy in the latest rankings of Fifa football's world governing body.

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, guided his side to a 4-0 victory against Moldova at Wembley last week, which was enough to retain seventh position in the rankings, with 60.70 points. However, Italy's 0-0 draw in Georgia, plus the recent improvement of Argentina and Norway, has seen Cesare Maldini's team slip to twelfth place, on 58.92 points.

Brazil, the world champions, are still first in the rankings, with Germany having moved up to second place. Romania, the only country with 100 per cent record in the European qualifying series for the 1998 World Cup finals, are third.

On the same day as the group two gladiators meet in Rome, Scotland need to beat Latvia in group four to probably reach the finals in France as the best European runners-up. Craig Brown, the Scotland coach, will not be too perturbed to discover that his bravehearts have dropped one place, to 27th.

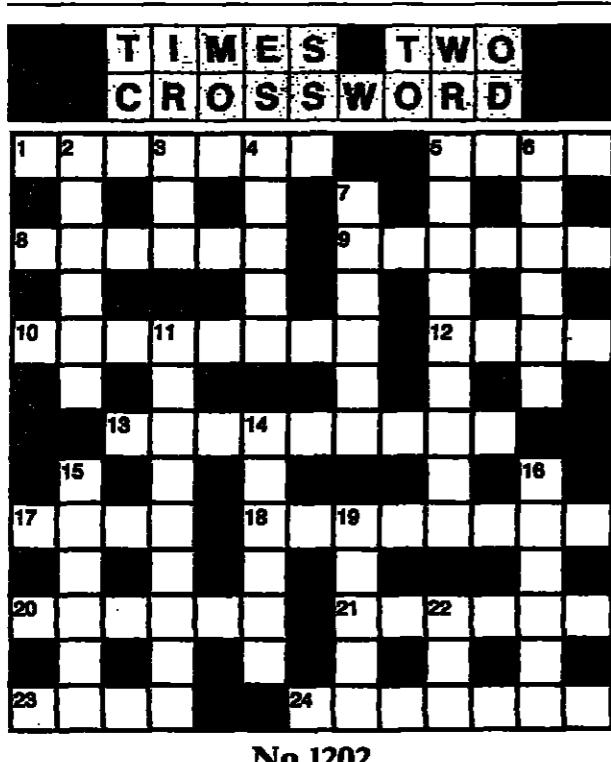
Ireland, after victories in Iceland and Lithuania, have climbed 13 places to 42nd. Northern Ireland have slipped one place to 72nd, while Wales are in freefall, down 18 places this year to 96th.

Chelsea vs Slovan Bratislava live from 7.30 tonight.

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Gullit, left, who is injured, and Zola may be missing tonight



ACROSS
1 Wordy (7)
5 Labyrinth (4)
8 Impenetrable forest; Kipling's Books (6)
9 Worthless; petty (6)
10 Trying to avoid arrest (2,3,3)
12 Ship's platform, cleared for action (4)
13 Acropolis temple (9)
17 Relaxation; remainder (4)
18 Grappling fighter (8)
20 One-dimensional (6)
21 Romantic cave (6)
23 Focuser of light (4)
24 Unrefinedness (7)

SOLUTION TO NO 1201
ACROSS: 1 Algebra 5 Trod 9 Range 10 Rhombus 11 Kick upstairs 12 Gothic 13 Passed 16 Presbyterian 19 Intense 20 Abide 21 Silk 22 Kremlin
DOWN: 1 Aurora 2 Genuine 3 Break the bank 4 Abrupt 6 Rabbit 7 Disused 8 Poet Laureate 12 Gypsies 14 Spaniel 15 Streak 17 Extol 18 Mean

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